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Angular analysis of the decay

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Angular analysis of the decay $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV

A. M. Sirunyan *et al.*^{*}
(CMS Collaboration)



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The angular distribution of the flavor-changing neutral current decay $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ is studied in proton-proton collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 8 TeV. The analysis is based on data collected with the CMS detector at the LHC, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 20.5 fb⁻¹. The forward-backward asymmetry A_{FB} of the dimuon system and the contribution F_{H} from the pseudoscalar, scalar, and tensor amplitudes to the decay width are measured as a function of the dimuon mass squared. The measurements are consistent with the standard model expectations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The decay $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ is a manifestation of a flavor-changing neutral current process of the type $b \rightarrow s \ell^+ \ell^-$, with ℓ denoting a charged lepton. In the standard model (SM), this decay is forbidden at tree level and occurs through higher-order processes. This makes the measurement of this process more sensitive to possible physics phenomena beyond the SM (BSM).

In the SM, three amplitudes contribute to $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ via either electroweak Z/γ penguin diagrams or a $W^+ W^-$ box diagram, as shown in Fig. 1. Two independent parameters describe the decay rate for the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ process: the forward-backward asymmetry A_{FB} of the dimuon system and the contribution F_{H} from the pseudoscalar, scalar, and tensor amplitudes to the decay width. Theoretical predictions are available for both parameters [1–3]. In the SM, A_{FB} is zero up to small corrections, and F_{H} is also small. Because SM amplitudes may interfere with the contributions from BSM particles in loop diagrams, the decay can probe the presence of yet-unobserved particles and processes [4–9]. For example, a nonzero A_{FB} or large F_{H} would point to a BSM contribution [1,10], which can be probed [11,12] by comparing the experimental measurements with the theoretical predictions [6,10,13].

In this paper, we report the measurement of A_{FB} and F_{H} as a function of the dimuon mass squared (q^2) based on an angular fit of the decay $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. Charge-conjugate decay modes

are implied throughout this paper. The data, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 20.5 fb⁻¹ [14], were collected by the CMS experiment at the LHC in 2012. The angular distribution of this decay has previously been studied by the *BABAR* [15], *Belle* [16], *CDF* [17], and *LHCb* [18,19] experiments, but no hints of BSM have been seen.

II. THE CMS DETECTOR

The central feature of the CMS detector is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and a strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter, and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter, each composed of a barrel and two end-cap sections. Forward calorimeters extend the pseudorapidity coverage provided by the barrel and end-cap detectors. Muons are detected in gas-ionization chambers embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. A detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found elsewhere [20].

The events are selected online using a two-stage trigger system [21]. The first level is composed of custom hardware processors and uses information from the calorimeters and muon detectors to select events at a rate of around 100 kHz within a time interval of less than 4 μ s. The second level, known as the high-level trigger (HLT), consists of a farm of processors running a version of the full event reconstruction software optimized for fast processing, and reduces the event rate to around 1 kHz before data storage.

III. EVENT SELECTION

The data for this analysis was recorded using a low-mass dimuon HLT with a displaced vertex. The trigger requires a

^{*}Full author list given at the end of the article.

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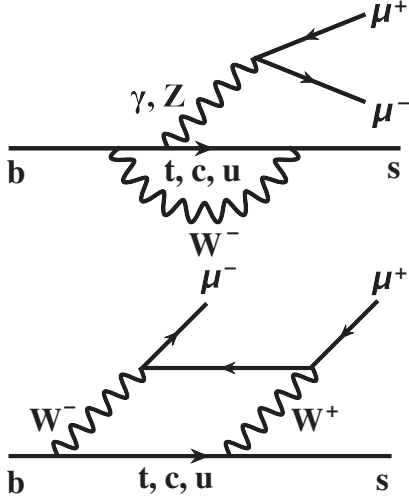


FIG. 1. The SM electroweak Z/γ penguin (left) and W^+W^- box (right) diagrams for the decay process $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\mu^+\mu^-$.

pair of opposite-sign muons with a dimuon vertex displaced from the interaction point by more than three times the calculated uncertainty. The trigger also requires the dimuon candidate to have invariant mass in the range 1.0–4.8 GeV and $p_T > 6.9$ GeV, and for each muon to have $p_T > 3.5$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.2$.

Monte Carlo (MC) simulated event samples are widely used in the analysis. The number of simulated events for the signal sample $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\mu^+\mu^-$ corresponds to more than 160 times that of the data. Other simulated samples used in this analysis are $B^+ \rightarrow K^+J/\psi(\mu^+\mu^-)$, $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\psi(2S)(\mu^+\mu^-)$, and $B^+ \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-X$. In the last decay mode, the muon pairs come from J/ψ or $\psi(2S)$ decay, and X denotes all other final-state particles. The MC samples are produced using the PYTHIA generator [22] version 6.424. Decays of B^+ and J/ψ or $\psi(2S)$ mesons are processed by the EVTGEN [23] version 9.1 program (with the default matrix element for the signal), in which final-state radiation is generated using PHOTOS [24]. Particles are traced through a detailed model of the detector with GEANT4 [25], producing signals similar to the actual detector responses. Particles coming from other proton-proton collisions in the same or nearby beam crossings (pileup) are simulated according to the data-taking conditions, but their effects on this analysis are small.

The selected events are reconstructed through the decay into the fully charged final state of one charged hadron and a pair of oppositely charged muons. Events from the control channels $B^+ \rightarrow K^+J/\psi(\mu^+\mu^-)$ and $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\psi(2S)(\mu^+\mu^-)$ have the same final state as the signal process $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\mu^+\mu^-$, and are extensively used to validate the analysis and to evaluate the systematic uncertainties. The muons are reconstructed using information from the silicon tracker and muon detector systems [26]. They must satisfy the off-line muon identification criteria that are optimized for low- p_T muons [27]. Dimuon candidates are formed from

two oppositely charged muons matching the HLT criteria that triggered the event readout. To discriminate signal events from background, additional selection criteria on kinematic variables are used. The following selection criteria are determined through a maximization of the expected signal significance using MC signal events and the surviving data events in the final B^+ meson invariant mass fitting region, 5.1–5.6 GeV. The charged hadron track must have $p_T > 1.3$ GeV and the distance of closest approach in the transverse plane of the charged hadron trajectory to the interaction point, divided by its uncertainty, must be greater than 3.3. The B^+ meson candidate is formed by combining a dimuon candidate with the charged hadron track assumed to be a kaon. The event kinematic information is updated by fitting these three tracks to a common vertex. The chi-squared probability of the vertex fit for the B^+ candidate is required to be greater than 12%. To further reduce the background, the distance in the transverse plane between the B^+ vertex and the interaction point must be larger than 10.6 times its uncertainty. The cosine of the angle in the transverse plane between the B^+ momentum and a vector from the interaction point to the B^+ meson vertex must be greater than 0.9997. After applying the selection criteria, less than 1% of the selected events contain multiple B^+ candidates. In these events, only the candidate with the highest B^+ decay vertex fit probability is retained.

Events with a dimuon invariant mass (q) close to the J/ψ or $\psi(2S)$ resonance region are rejected to remove this contamination from the control channels, as in Ref. [28]. The J/ψ and $\psi(2S)$ resonance regions are defined as $m_{J/\psi}^{\text{PDG}} - 5\sigma_q < q < m_{J/\psi}^{\text{PDG}} + 3\sigma_q$ and $|q - m_{\psi(2S)}^{\text{PDG}}| < 5\sigma_q$, respectively, where σ_q is the calculated uncertainty in q , and the PDG superscript indicates the world-average mass value [29] for each particle. We further suppress such events by requiring, $|(m - m_{B^+}^{\text{PDG}}) - (q - m_{J/\psi}^{\text{PDG}})| > 0.13$ GeV and $|(m - m_{B^+}^{\text{PDG}}) - (q - m_{\psi(2S)}^{\text{PDG}})| > 0.06$ GeV in the B^+ meson invariant mass region of 5.1–5.6 GeV, where m is the B^+ candidate invariant mass. With these requirements, the maximum contribution of events containing a J/ψ or $\psi(2S)$ is less than 7% in any q^2 , and the kinematic distributions of these events can be described together with those of the combinatorial background.

IV. ANGULAR ANALYSIS

The measurement of A_{FB} and F_H is performed through angular analysis in seven q^2 ranges from 1 to 22 GeV². The q^2 ranges used in this analysis are the same as in previous measurements [16–18], facilitating the comparison. The J/ψ and $\psi(2S)$ regions, corresponding to q^2 ranges of 8.68–10.09 and 12.86–14.18 GeV², respectively, are used as control regions [28,30]. Additionally, we define an inclusive low- q^2 range of 1.00–6.00 GeV² in order to

compare the results to SM calculations with the best-controlled theoretical uncertainty, and a full inclusive q^2 range of 1.00–22.00 GeV^2 , excluding the control regions. The analysis for these two ranges is performed with the same procedure as for the other ranges.

The decay rate for the process $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ depends on $\cos \theta_\ell$, where θ_ℓ is the angle between the directions of the μ^- and K^+ in the dilepton rest frame. The differential decay width Γ_ℓ with respect to $\cos \theta_\ell$ can be parametrized [1,8,9] in terms of the observables of interest A_{FB} and F_H as:

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma_\ell} \frac{d\Gamma_\ell}{d\cos \theta_\ell} = \frac{3}{4}(1 - F_H)(1 - \cos^2 \theta_\ell) + \frac{1}{2}F_H + A_{\text{FB}} \cos \theta_\ell. \quad (1)$$

The requirement for the decay rate to remain positive over all possible lepton angles constrains the parameter space to the region $0 \leq F_H \leq 3$ and $|A_{\text{FB}}| \leq \min(1, F_H/2)$. The angular observables A_{FB} and F_H are extracted from a two-dimensional extended unbinned maximum-likelihood fit to the angular distribution of the selected B^+ meson

candidates in each q^2 range. The unnormalized probability density function (pdf) used in the two-dimensional fit is

$$\text{pdf}(m, \cos \theta_\ell) = Y_S S_m(m) S_a(\cos \theta_\ell) \epsilon(\cos \theta_\ell) + Y_B B_m(m) B_a(\cos \theta_\ell), \quad (2)$$

where the two contributions on the right-hand side correspond to the parametrization of the signal and background. The parameters Y_S and Y_B are the yields of signal and background events, respectively. The functions $S_m(m)$ and $S_a(\cos \theta_\ell)$ describe the signal invariant mass and angular distributions, while $B_m(m)$ and $B_a(\cos \theta_\ell)$ are similar functions describing the background. The function $\epsilon(\cos \theta_\ell)$ is the signal efficiency as a function of $\cos \theta_\ell$.

The signal distribution $S_m(m)$ is modeled as the sum of two Gaussian functions with a common mean, and $S_a(\cos \theta_\ell)$ is given in Eq. (1). The background distribution $B_m(m)$ is modeled as a single exponential function, while $B_a(\cos \theta_\ell)$ is parametrized as the sum of a Gaussian function and a third- or fourth-degree polynomial, depending on the particular q^2 range.

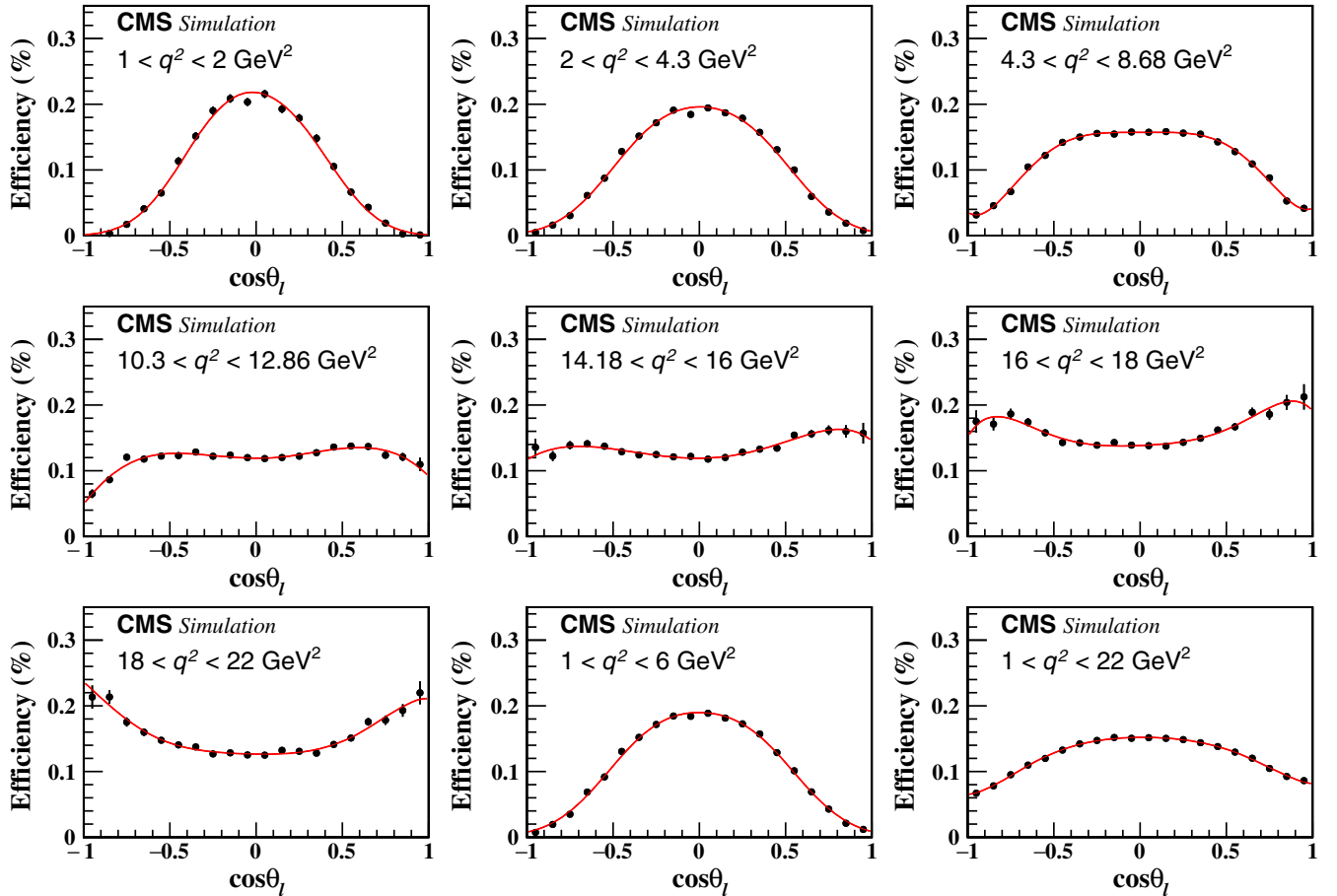


FIG. 2. The signal efficiency determined from simulated events as a function of $\cos \theta_\ell$ for the different q^2 ranges (points). The vertical bars indicate the statistical uncertainty. The curves show the sixth-order polynomial fits to the points.

Many of the parameters in the final fit are set to a given value with a Gaussian constraint that reflects the input uncertainty of the value. For the $S_m(m)$ function, the mean is constrained to the world-average B^+ mass [29] and the widths and relative fraction of the two Gaussians are constrained to the values found from fitting simulated events. The parameters of the $B_a(\cos\theta_\ell)$ function are obtained by fitting the events in the B^+ meson invariant mass sideband regions of 5.10–5.21 and 5.35–5.46 GeV. The free parameters of the fit are Y_S , Y_B , A_{FB} , and F_H , as well as the exponential decay parameter of $B_m(m)$.

The signal efficiency $\epsilon(\cos\theta_\ell)$ is factorized into an acceptance ϵ_{acc} times a reconstruction efficiency ϵ_{reco} , which are both functions of $\cos\theta_\ell$. The acceptance is obtained from generated events, before the particle propagation with GEANT4, and is calculated as the fraction of MC simulated signal events passing the muon requirement of $p_T > 3.5$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.2$ relative to all generated events. It varies from 2 to 4% depending on q^2 . The

reconstruction efficiency is obtained from the ratio of the number of reconstructed MC events passing the final event selection to the number of events passing the single-muon selection at the generator level. It varies from 4 to 7% depending on q^2 . The signal efficiency $\epsilon(\cos\theta_\ell)$ is parametrized and fit with a sixth-order polynomial, as shown in Fig. 2 for the nine different signal q^2 ranges used in this analysis.

The angular distributions of data and simulation from the two control channels are compared and the good agreement between them provides a validation of the efficiency description. We also check that the ratio of the branching fractions of the two control channels is consistent with the world-average value [29] within their uncertainties. The MC simulation samples are used to validate the fitting procedure in each q^2 range. The results of fitting the signal MC sample at the generator level and the standard signal simulation are consistent with each other. The large MC signal sample is divided into 20 subsamples and fits of

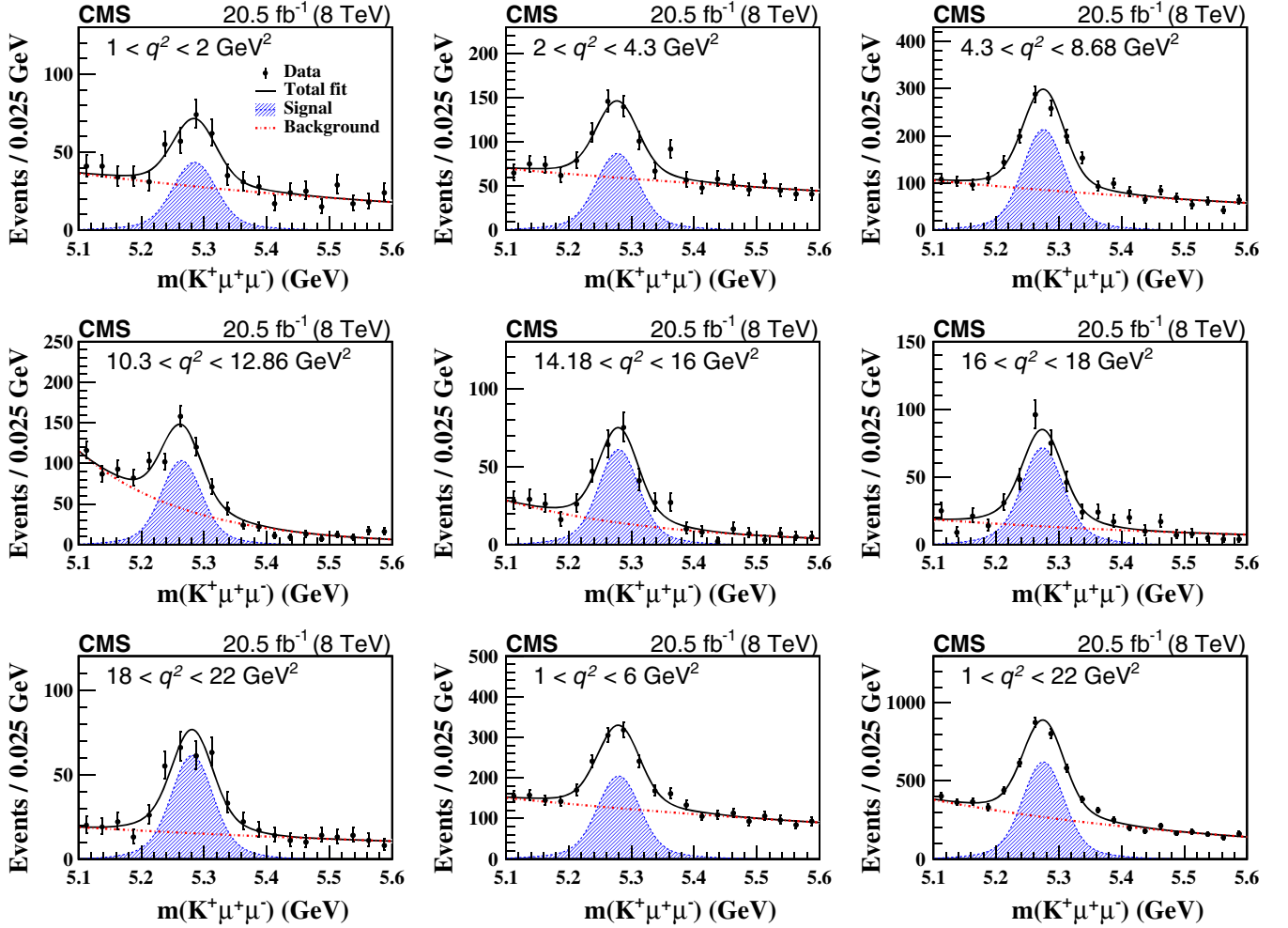


FIG. 3. Projections of the $K^+\mu^+\mu^-$ invariant mass distributions for each q^2 range from the two-dimensional fit of data. The solid lines show the total fit, the shaded area the signal contribution, and the dashed-dotted lines the background. The vertical bars on the points represent the statistical uncertainty in the data.

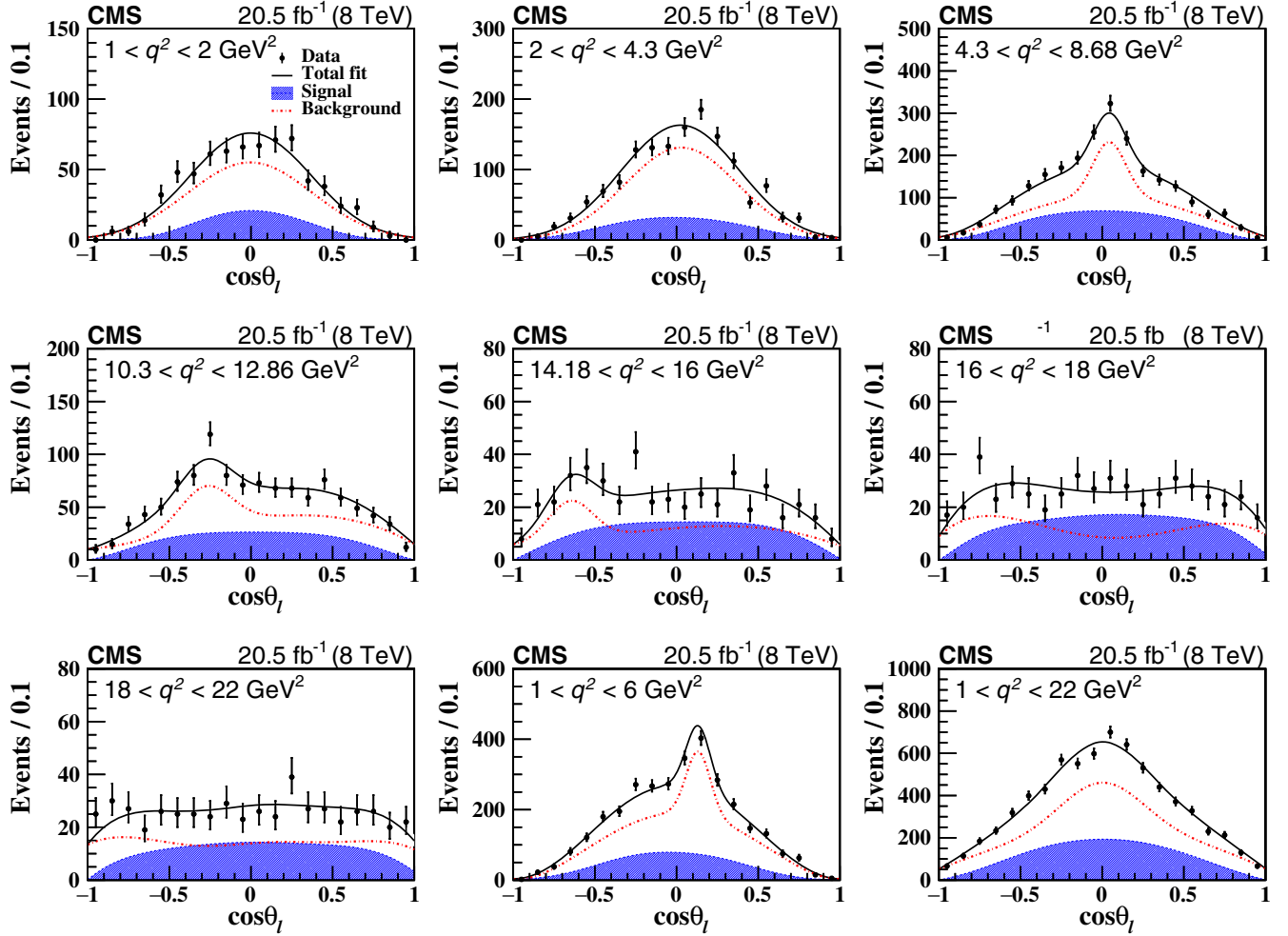


FIG. 4. Projections of the $\cos \theta_\ell$ distributions for each q^2 range from the two-dimensional fit of data. The solid lines show the total fit, the shaded area the signal contribution, and the dashed-dotted lines the background. The vertical bars on the points represent the statistical uncertainty in the data.

these subsamples reveal no additional bias. In addition, we generate 200 pseudoexperiments of 100 times the size of data, using the pdf in Eq. (2), with parameters from fitting the data. The differences between the fitted values from these samples and the input parameters from data follow Gaussian distributions with the means consistent with zero and the widths smaller than the variations among the signal MC subsample fits in the same q^2 range.

The final fit is performed over the full B^+ meson invariant mass range and results in 2286 ± 73 signal events with q^2 from 1 to 22 GeV^2 . Figures 3 and 4 show the $K^+\mu^+\mu^-$ invariant mass and the $\cos \theta_\ell$ projections, respectively, for each q^2 range from the two-dimensional fit to the data.

V. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

Several sources of systematic uncertainty in the measured values of A_{FB} and F_{H} are considered, as summarized in Table I. Varying the parameter values of $S_{\text{m}}(m)$ used to

fit the signal invariant mass distribution within their uncertainties results in a negligible change in the measured values of A_{FB} and F_{H} .

The finite size of the simulated event samples can affect the accuracy of the efficiency determination. To estimate the uncertainty, 200 alternative efficiency functions are created by varying the parameters of the signal efficiency function $\epsilon(\cos \theta_\ell)$ within their uncertainties. These alternative efficiencies are independently used to fit the data. The standard deviations of the resulting A_{FB} and F_{H} fit values are taken as their systematic uncertainties from this source. The systematic uncertainty due to the efficiency description is estimated by changing the modeling of $\epsilon(\cos \theta_\ell)$. The fit to $\epsilon(\cos \theta_\ell)$ is modified from a sixth-order polynomial to the product of a Gaussian function and a sixth-order polynomial, where the Gaussian function parameters are the fit results from ϵ_{acc} , and the sixth-order polynomial parameters are the fit results from ϵ_{reco} . The differences in the results of A_{FB} and F_{H} are used as the systematic uncertainties.

TABLE I. Absolute values of the uncertainty contributions in the measurements of A_{FB} and F_{H} . For each item, the range indicates the variation of the uncertainty in the signal q^2 ranges.

| Systematic uncertainty | $A_{\text{FB}}(\times 10^{-2})$ | $F_{\text{H}}(\times 10^{-2})$ |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Finite size of MC samples | 0.4–1.8 | 0.9–5.0 |
| Efficiency description | 0.1–1.5 | 0.1–7.8 |
| Simulation mismodeling | 0.1–2.8 | 0.1–1.4 |
| Background parametrization model | 0.1–1.0 | 0.1–5.1 |
| Angular resolution | 0.1–1.7 | 0.1–3.3 |
| Dimuon mass resolution | 0.1–1.0 | 0.1–1.5 |
| Fitting procedure | 0.1–3.2 | 0.4–25 |
| Background distribution | 0.1–7.2 | 0.1–29 |
| Total systematic uncertainty | 1.6–7.5 | 4.4–39 |

The simulated signal sample is used to evaluate the effects of any simulation mismodeling. The difference in the fitted values of A_{FB} and F_{H} between a simulated sample at the generator level without the detector simulation and reconstruction steps, and the standard signal simulation sample is assigned as the systematic uncertainty. The specific parametrization of the function used to fit the backgrounds can cause the results to change. To evaluate the effect of fitting the background $\cos\theta_\ell$ distribution, the degrees of the polynomials used to describe the angular shapes of the combinatorial background are decreased by one. After fitting with the alternative background parametrization, the differences in the A_{FB} and F_{H} results are taken as the systematic uncertainties from the background parametrization model. The systematic uncertainties coming from the experimental resolution in $\cos\theta_\ell$ and q^2 are estimated by comparing the values of A_{FB} and F_{H} obtained from the reconstructed MC events with those found using the generated values of $\cos\theta_\ell$ and q^2 in the fit.

An estimate of the systematic uncertainty from the fitting procedure is calculated using two different methods. In the first method, we divide the large simulated signal sample into multiple subsamples, each with a size similar to that of the data. The difference between the average of the fitted values of A_{FB} and F_{H} from the subsamples and the fitted value from the full sample is taken as an estimate of the systematic uncertainty from the modeling of the signal. In the second method, we generate many pseudoexperiments in which each of the mass and $\cos\theta_\ell$ distributions are obtained from combining a signal and background distribution. The signal distribution is obtained by selecting signal events from the simulated sample, with the number of events determined by the fit to the data. The background distribution is obtained from sampling a parent distribution that comes from subtracting the fitted signal distributions from the data. The mean value of the differences from these pseudoexperiments and the measurements from the reconstruction-level simulated signal sample is taken as an estimate of the fitting uncertainty due to the presence of background. The estimates from the two methods are then

added in quadrature to obtain the overall systematic uncertainty from the fitting procedure.

In some q^2 ranges there are visible structures in the background $\cos\theta_\ell$ distributions, as seen in Fig. 4. We have investigated many possible contributions to these structures, and none of them has been identified. This uncertainty is estimated using the “second” method from the fitting procedure systematic uncertainty calculation, with the $\cos\theta_\ell$ distribution for the background obtained separately from the lower- and higher-mass sideband regions, 5.10–5.21 and 5.35–5.60 GeV. The larger of the two differences between these alternative fits and the nominal fit is taken as the systematic uncertainty from fitting the background $\cos\theta_\ell$ distribution.

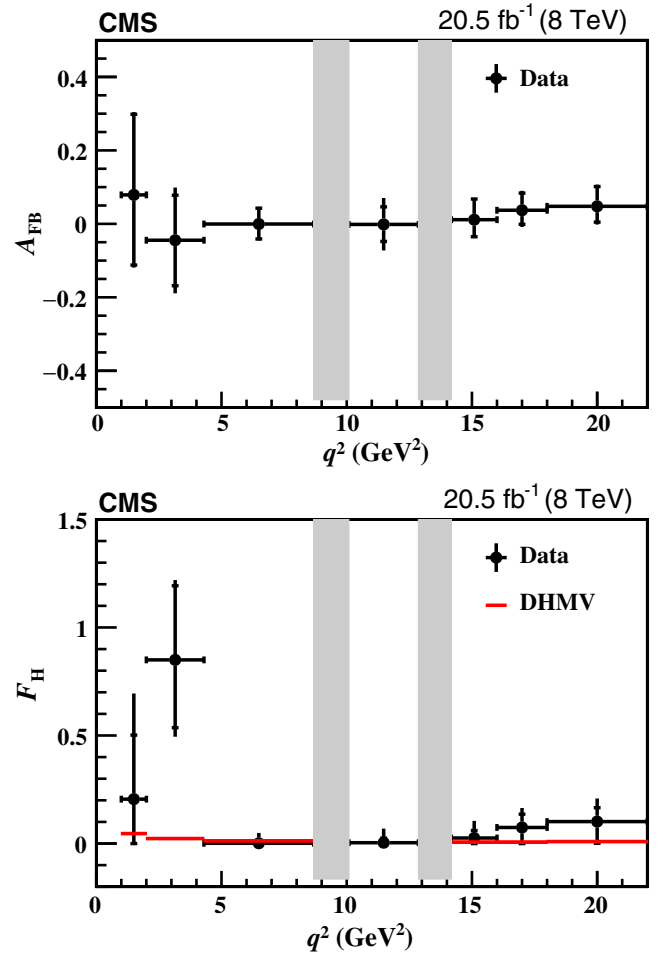


FIG. 5. Results of the A_{FB} (left) and F_{H} (right) measurements in ranges of q^2 . The statistical uncertainties are shown by the inner vertical bars, while the outer vertical bars give the total uncertainties. The horizontal bars show the q^2 range widths. The vertical shaded regions are 8.68–10.09 and 12.86–14.18 GeV^2 , corresponding to the J/ψ - and $\psi(2S)$ -dominated control regions, respectively. The horizontal lines in the right plot show the DHMV SM theoretical predictions [32,33], whose uncertainties are smaller than the line width.

TABLE II. Results of the fit for each q^2 range, together with several SM predictions. The inclusive $q^2 = 1.00\text{--}22.00$ GeV² range in the bottom line does not include events from the J/ψ and $\psi(2S)$ resonance regions. The signal yield Y_S is given, along with its statistical uncertainty. The measured values of A_{FB} and F_H are presented, where the first uncertainties are statistical and the second are systematic. The fifth column is a theoretical prediction by C. Bobeth *et al.* [1,3] using the EOS package [34] with the form factors from Refs. [2,35,36]. The sixth column is the calculation from S. Descotes-Genon *et al.* (DHMV) based on Refs. [32,33]. The last column is the prediction using the FLAVIO package [37] with the form factors from Ref. [38]. Only the central values of the theoretical predictions are shown, since their uncertainties are insignificant compared to those in the measurements.

| q^2 (GeV ²) | Y_S | A_{FB} | F_H | F_H (EOS) | F_H (DHMV) | F_H (FLAVIO) |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1.00–2.00 | 169 ± 22 | $0.08^{+0.22}_{-0.19} \pm 0.05$ | $0.21^{+0.29}_{-0.21} \pm 0.39$ | 0.047 | 0.046 | 0.045 |
| 2.00–4.30 | 331 ± 32 | $-0.04^{+0.12}_{-0.12} \pm 0.07$ | $0.85^{+0.34}_{-0.31} \pm 0.14$ | 0.024 | 0.023 | 0.022 |
| 4.30–8.68 | 785 ± 42 | $0.00^{+0.04}_{-0.04} \pm 0.02$ | $0.01^{+0.02}_{-0.01} \pm 0.04$ | ... | 0.012 | 0.011 |
| 10.09–12.86 | 365 ± 29 | $0.00^{+0.05}_{-0.05} \pm 0.05$ | $0.01^{+0.02}_{-0.01} \pm 0.06$ | ... | ... | ... |
| 14.18–16.00 | 215 ± 19 | $0.01^{+0.06}_{-0.05} \pm 0.02$ | $0.03^{+0.03}_{-0.03} \pm 0.07$ | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.006 |
| 16.00–18.00 | 262 ± 21 | $0.04^{+0.05}_{-0.04} \pm 0.03$ | $0.07^{+0.06}_{-0.07} \pm 0.07$ | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.006 |
| 18.00–22.00 | 226 ± 20 | $0.05^{+0.05}_{-0.04} \pm 0.02$ | $0.10^{+0.06}_{-0.10} \pm 0.09$ | 0.008 | 0.009 | 0.008 |
| 1.00–6.00 | 778 ± 47 | $-0.14^{+0.07}_{-0.06} \pm 0.03$ | $0.38^{+0.17}_{-0.21} \pm 0.09$ | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.020 |
| 1.00–22.00 | 2286 ± 73 | $0.00^{+0.02}_{-0.02} \pm 0.03$ | $0.01^{+0.01}_{-0.01} \pm 0.06$ | ... | ... | ... |

The systematic uncertainties are estimated for each q^2 range independently. As the systematic uncertainty sources are considered to be independent, they are added in quadrature to obtain the total systematic uncertainties, as shown in the last row of Table I.

VI. RESULTS

To evaluate the statistical uncertainties, the 68.3% confidence level intervals on A_{FB} and F_H are estimated using the profiled Feldman-Cousins technique [31]. When estimating the uncertainty in A_{FB} and F_H , the other variable is treated as a nuisance parameter and profiled. A large number of pseudoexperiments are generated with the maximum-likelihood estimate of the nuisance parameter. The correlation between the two variables is ignored by setting the confidence interval after using this profiling method. The systematic and statistical uncertainties are added in quadrature to obtain the total uncertainty.

The measured values of A_{FB} and F_H for each q^2 range are shown in Fig. 5. The numerical results are summarized in Table II, including the two special q^2 ranges. The measured values of A_{FB} are consistent with the SM expectation of no asymmetry. Table II also includes three SM predictions for F_H with different input parameters and different handling of higher-order corrections, one of which is also shown in Fig. 5. There is generally good agreement between the predictions and our results, as well as between our results and previous measurements [15–19].

VII. SUMMARY

An angular analysis of the decay $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ has been performed using a data sample of proton-proton collisions corresponding to an integrated luminosity of

20.5 fb^{-1} recorded with the CMS detector at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$. The forward-backward asymmetry A_{FB} of the muon system and the contribution F_H of the pseudoscalar, scalar, and tensor amplitudes to the decay width are measured as a function of the dimuon mass squared. The results are consistent with previous measurements, and are also compatible with three different standard model predictions.

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Meyer,³⁹ P. Millet,³⁹ S. Mukherjee,³⁹ T. Pook,³⁹ M. Radziej,³⁹ H. Reithler,³⁹ M. Rieger,³⁹ F. Scheuch,³⁹ A. Schmidt,³⁹ D. Teyssier,³⁹ G. Flügge,⁴⁰ O. Hlushchenko,⁴⁰ B. Kargoll,⁴⁰ T. Kress,⁴⁰ A. Künsken,⁴⁰ T. Müller,⁴⁰ A. Nehrkorn,⁴⁰ A. Nowack,⁴⁰ C. Pistone,⁴⁰ O. Poeth,⁴⁰ H. Sert,⁴⁰ A. Stahl,^{40,r} M. Aldaya Martin,⁴¹ T. Arndt,⁴¹ C. Asawatangtrakuldee,⁴¹ I. Babounikau,⁴¹ K. Beernaert,⁴¹ O. Behnke,⁴¹ U. Behrens,⁴¹ A. Bermúdez Martínez,⁴¹ D. Bertsche,⁴¹ A. A. Bin Anuar,⁴¹ K. Borras,^{41,s} V. Botta,⁴¹ A. Campbell,⁴¹ P. Connor,⁴¹ C. Contreras-Campana,⁴¹ F. Costanza,⁴¹ V. Danilov,⁴¹ A. De Wit,⁴¹ M. M. Defranchis,⁴¹ C. Diez Pados,⁴¹ D. Domínguez Damiani,⁴¹ G. Eckerlin,⁴¹ T. Eichhorn,⁴¹ A. Elwood,⁴¹ E. Eren,⁴¹ E. Gallo,^{41,t} A. Geiser,⁴¹ J. M. Grados Luyando,⁴¹ A. Grohsjean,⁴¹ P. Gunnellini,⁴¹ M. Guthoff,⁴¹ M. Haranko,⁴¹ A. Harb,⁴¹ J. Hauk,⁴¹ H. Jung,⁴¹ M. Kasemann,⁴¹ J. Keaveney,⁴¹ C. Kleinwort,⁴¹ J. Knolle,⁴¹ D. Krücker,⁴¹ W. Lange,⁴¹ A. Lelek,⁴¹ T. Lenz,⁴¹ K. Lipka,⁴¹ W. Lohmann,^{41,u} R. Mankel,⁴¹ I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann,⁴¹ A. B. Meyer,⁴¹ M. Meyer,⁴¹ M. Missiroli,⁴¹ G. Mittag,⁴¹ J. Mnich,⁴¹ V. Myronenko,⁴¹ S. K. Pflitsch,⁴¹ D. Pitzl,⁴¹ A. Raspereza,⁴¹ M. Savitskyi,⁴¹ P. Saxena,⁴¹ P. Schütze,⁴¹ C. Schwanenberger,⁴¹ R. Shevchenko,⁴¹ A. Singh,⁴¹ N. Stefaniuk,⁴¹ H. Tholen,⁴¹ O. Turkot,⁴¹ A. Vagnerini,⁴¹ G. P. Van Onsem,⁴¹ R. Walsh,⁴¹ Y. Wen,⁴¹ K. Wichmann,⁴¹ C. Wissing,⁴¹ O. Zenaiev,⁴¹ R. Aggleton,⁴² S. Bein,⁴² L. Benato,⁴² A. Benecke,⁴² V. Blobel,⁴² M. Centis Vignali,⁴² T. Dreyer,⁴² E. Garutti,⁴² D. Gonzalez,⁴² J. Haller,⁴² A. Hinzmann,⁴² A. Karavdina,⁴² G. Kasieczka,⁴² R. Klanner,⁴² R. Kogler,⁴² N. Kovalchuk,⁴² S. Kurz,⁴² V. Kutzner,⁴² J. Lange,⁴² D. Marconi,⁴² J. Multhaupt,⁴² M. Niedziela,⁴² D. Nowatschin,⁴² A. Perieanu,⁴² A. Reimers,⁴² O. Rieger,⁴² C. Scharf,⁴² P. Schleper,⁴² S. Schumann,⁴² J. Schwandt,⁴² J. Sonneveld,⁴² H. Stadie,⁴² G. Steinbrück,⁴² F. M. Stober,⁴² M. Stöver,⁴² D. Troendle,⁴² A. Vanhoefer,⁴² B. Vormwald,⁴² M. Akbiyik,⁴³ C. Barth,⁴³ M. Baselga,⁴³ S. Baur,⁴³ E. Butz,⁴³ R. Caspart,⁴³ T. Chwalek,⁴³ F. Colombo,⁴³ W. De Boer,⁴³ A. Dierlamm,⁴³ N. Faltermann,⁴³ B. Freund,⁴³ M. Giffels,⁴³ M. A. Harrendorf,⁴³ F. Hartmann,^{43,r} S. M. Heindl,⁴³ U. Husemann,⁴³ F. Kassel,^{43,r} I. Katkov,^{43,o} S. Kudella,⁴³ H. Mildner,⁴³ S. Mitra,⁴³ M. U. Mozer,⁴³ Th. Müller,⁴³ M. Plagge,⁴³ G. Quast,⁴³ K. Rabbertz,⁴³ M. Schröder,⁴³ I. Shvetsov,⁴³ G. Sieber,⁴³ H. J. Simonis,⁴³ R. Ulrich,⁴³ S. Wayand,⁴³ M. Weber,⁴³ T. Weiler,⁴³ S. Williamson,⁴³ C. Wöhrmann,⁴³ R. Wolf,⁴³ G. Anagnostou,⁴⁴ G. Daskalakis,⁴⁴ T. Geralis,⁴⁴ A. Kyriakis,⁴⁴ D. Loukas,⁴⁴ G. Paspalaki,⁴⁴ I. Topsis-Giotis,⁴⁴ G. Karathanasis,⁴⁵ S. Kesisoglou,⁴⁵ P. Kontaxakis,⁴⁵ A. Panagiotou,⁴⁵ N. Saoulidou,⁴⁵ E. Tziaferi,⁴⁵ K. Vellidis,⁴⁵ K. Kousouris,⁴⁶ I. Papakrivopoulos,⁴⁶ G. Tsipolitis,⁴⁶ I. Evangelou,⁴⁷ C. Foudas,⁴⁷ P. Gianneios,⁴⁷ P. Katsoulis,⁴⁷

- P. Kokkas,⁴⁷ S. Mallios,⁴⁷ N. Manthos,⁴⁷ I. Papadopoulos,⁴⁷ E. Paradas,⁴⁷ J. Strologas,⁴⁷ F. A. Triantis,⁴⁷ D. Tsitsonis,⁴⁷ M. Bartók,^{48,v} M. Csanad,⁴⁸ N. Filipovic,⁴⁸ P. Major,⁴⁸ M. I. Nagy,⁴⁸ G. Pasztor,⁴⁸ O. Surányi,⁴⁸ G. I. Veres,⁴⁸ G. Bencze,⁴⁹ C. Hajdu,⁴⁹ D. Horvath,^{49,w} Á. Hunyadi,⁴⁹ F. Sikler,⁴⁹ T. Á. Vámi,⁴⁹ V. Veszpremi,⁴⁹ G. Vesztergombi,^{49,a,v} N. Beni,⁵⁰ S. Czellar,⁵⁰ J. Karancsi,^{50,x} A. Makovec,⁵⁰ J. Molnar,⁵⁰ Z. Szillasi,⁵⁰ P. Raics,⁵¹ Z. L. Trocsanyi,⁵¹ B. Ujvari,⁵¹ S. Choudhury,⁵² J. R. Komaragiri,⁵² P. C. Tiwari,⁵² S. Bahinipati,^{53,y} C. Kar,⁵³ P. Mal,⁵³ K. Mandal,⁵³ A. Nayak,^{53,z} D. K. Sahoo,^{53,y} S. K. Swain,⁵³ S. Bansal,⁵⁴ S. B. Beri,⁵⁴ V. Bhatnagar,⁵⁴ S. Chauhan,⁵⁴ R. Chawla,⁵⁴ N. Dhingra,⁵⁴ R. Gupta,⁵⁴ A. Kaur,⁵⁴ A. Kaur,⁵⁴ M. Kaur,⁵⁴ S. Kaur,⁵⁴ R. Kumar,⁵⁴ P. Kumari,⁵⁴ M. Lohan,⁵⁴ A. Mehta,⁵⁴ K. Sandeep,⁵⁴ S. Sharma,⁵⁴ J. B. Singh,⁵⁴ G. Walia,⁵⁴ A. Bhardwaj,⁵⁵ B. C. Choudhary,⁵⁵ R. B. Garg,⁵⁵ M. Gola,⁵⁵ S. Keshri,⁵⁵ Ashok Kumar,⁵⁵ S. Malhotra,⁵⁵ M. Naimuddin,⁵⁵ P. Priyanka,⁵⁵ K. Ranjan,⁵⁵ Aashaq Shah,⁵⁵ R. Sharma,⁵⁵ R. Bhardwaj,^{56,aa} M. Bharti,⁵⁶ R. Bhattacharya,⁵⁶ S. Bhattacharya,⁵⁶ U. Bhawandeep,^{56,aa} D. Bhowmik,⁵⁶ S. Dey,⁵⁶ S. Dutt,^{56,aa} S. Dutta,⁵⁶ S. Ghosh,⁵⁶ K. Mondal,⁵⁶ S. Nandan,⁵⁶ A. Purohit,⁵⁶ P. K. Rout,⁵⁶ A. Roy,⁵⁶ S. Roy Chowdhury,⁵⁶ S. Sarkar,⁵⁶ M. Sharan,⁵⁶ B. Singh,⁵⁶ S. Thakur,^{56,aa} P. K. Behera,⁵⁷ R. Chudasama,⁵⁸ D. Dutta,⁵⁸ V. Jha,⁵⁸ V. Kumar,⁵⁸ P. K. Netrakanti,⁵⁸ L. M. Pant,⁵⁸ P. Shukla,⁵⁸ T. Aziz,⁵⁹ M. A. Bhat,⁵⁹ S. Dugad,⁵⁹ G. B. Mohanty,⁵⁹ N. Sur,⁵⁹ B. Sutar,⁵⁹ Ravindra Kumar Verma,⁵⁹ S. Banerjee,⁶⁰ S. Bhattacharya,⁶⁰ S. Chatterjee,⁶⁰ P. Das,⁶⁰ M. Guchait,⁶⁰ Sa. Jain,⁶⁰ S. Karmakar,⁶⁰ S. Kumar,⁶⁰ M. Maity,^{60,bb} G. Majumder,⁶⁰ K. Mazumdar,⁶⁰ N. Sahoo,⁶⁰ T. Sarkar,^{60,bb} S. Chauhan,⁶¹ S. Dube,⁶¹ V. Hegde,⁶¹ A. Kapoor,⁶¹ K. Kothekar,⁶¹ S. Pandey,⁶¹ A. Rane,⁶¹ S. Sharma,⁶¹ S. Chenarani,^{62,cc} E. Eskandari Tadavani,⁶² S. M. Etesami,^{62,cc} M. Khakzad,⁶² M. Mohammadi Najafabadi,⁶² M. Naseri,⁶² F. Rezaei Hosseinabadi,⁶² B. Safarzadeh,^{62,dd} M. Zeinali,⁶² M. Felcini,⁶³ M. Grunewald,⁶³ M. Abbrescia,^{64a,64b} C. Calabria,^{64a,64b} A. Colaleo,^{64a} D. Creanza,^{64a,64c} L. Cristella,^{64a,64b} N. De Filippis,^{64a,64c} M. De Palma,^{64a,64b} A. Di Florio,^{64a,64b} F. Errico,^{64a,64b} L. Fiore,^{64a} A. Gelmi,^{64a,64b} G. Iaselli,^{64a,64c} S. Lezki,^{64a,64b} G. Maggi,^{64a,64c} M. Maggi,^{64a} G. Miniello,^{64a,64b} S. My,^{64a,64b} S. Nuzzo,^{64a,64b} A. Pompili,^{64a,64b} G. Pugliese,^{64a,64c} R. Radogna,^{64a} A. Ranieri,^{64a} G. Selvaggi,^{64a,64b} A. Sharma,^{64a} L. Silvestris,^{64a,r} R. Venditti,^{64a} P. Verwilligen,^{64a} G. Zito,^{64a} G. Abbiendi,^{65a} C. Battilana,^{65a,65b} D. Bonacorsi,^{65a,65b} L. Borgonovi,^{65a,65b} S. Braibant-Giacomelli,^{65a,65b} R. Campanini,^{65a,65b} P. Capiluppi,^{65a,65b} A. Castro,^{65a,65b} F. R. Cavallo,^{65a} S. S. Chhibra,^{65a,65b} C. Ciocca,^{65a} G. Codispoti,^{65a,65b} M. 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Manca,^{75a,75c} G. Mandorli,^{75a,75c} A. Messineo,^{75a,75b} F. Palla,^{75a} A. Rizzi,^{75a,75b} P. Spagnolo,^{75a} R. Tenchini,^{75a} G. Tonelli,^{75a,75b} A. Venturi,^{75a} P. G. Verдини,^{75a} L. Barone,^{76a,76b} F. Cavallari,^{76a} M. Cipriani,^{76a,76b} N. Daci,^{76a} D. Del Re,^{76a,76b} E. Di Marco,^{76a,76b} M. Diemoz,^{76a} S. Gelli,^{76a,76b} E. Longo,^{76a,76b} B. Marzocchi,^{76a,76b} P. Meridiani,^{76a} G. Organtini,^{76a,76b} F. Pandolfi,^{76a} R. Paramatti,^{76a,76b} F. Preiato,^{76a,76b} S. Rahatlou,^{76a,76b} C. Rovelli,^{76a} F. Santanastasio,^{76a,76b} N. Amapane,^{77a,77b} R. Arcidiacono,^{77a,77c} S. Argiro,^{77a,77b} M. Arneodo,^{77a,77c} N. Bartosik,^{77a} R. Bellan,^{77a,77b} C. Biino,^{77a}

N. Cartiglia,^{77a} F. Cenna,^{77a,77b} S. Cometti,^{77a} M. Costa,^{77a,77b} R. Covarelli,^{77a,77b} N. Demaria,^{77a} B. Kiani,^{77a,77b} C. Mariotti,^{77a} S. Maselli,^{77a} E. Migliore,^{77a,77b} V. Monaco,^{77a,77b} E. Monteil,^{77a,77b} M. Monteno,^{77a} M. M. Obertino,^{77a,77b} L. Pacher,^{77a,77b} N. Pastrone,^{77a} M. Pelliccioni,^{77a} G. L. Pinna Angioni,^{77a,77b} A. Romero,^{77a,77b} M. Ruspa,^{77a,77c} R. Sacchi,^{77a,77b} K. Shchelina,^{77a,77b} V. Sola,^{77a} A. Solano,^{77a,77b} D. Soldi,^{77a} A. Staiano,^{77a} S. Belforte,^{78a} V. Candelise,^{78a,78b} M. Casarsa,^{78a} F. Cossutti,^{78a} G. Della Ricca,^{78a,78b} F. Vazzoler,^{78a,78b} A. Zanetti,^{78a} D. H. Kim,⁷⁹ G. N. Kim,⁷⁹ M. S. Kim,⁷⁹ J. Lee,⁷⁹ S. Lee,⁷⁹ S. W. Lee,⁷⁹ C. S. Moon,⁷⁹ Y. D. Oh,⁷⁹ S. Sekmen,⁷⁹ D. C. Son,⁷⁹ Y. C. Yang,⁷⁹ H. Kim,⁸⁰ D. H. Moon,⁸⁰ G. Oh,⁸⁰ J. Goh,⁸¹ T. J. Kim,⁸¹ S. Cho,⁸² S. Choi,⁸² Y. Go,⁸² D. Gyun,⁸² S. Ha,⁸² B. Hong,⁸² Y. Jo,⁸² K. Lee,⁸² K. S. Lee,⁸² S. Lee,⁸² J. Lim,⁸² S. K. Park,⁸² Y. Roh,⁸² H. S. Kim,⁸³ J. Almond,⁸⁴ J. Kim,⁸⁴ J. S. Kim,⁸⁴ H. Lee,⁸⁴ K. Lee,⁸⁴ K. Nam,⁸⁴ S. B. Oh,⁸⁴ B. C. Radburn-Smith,⁸⁴ S. h. Seo,⁸⁴ U. K. Yang,⁸⁴ H. D. Yoo,⁸⁴ G. B. Yu,⁸⁴ D. Jeon,⁸⁵ H. Kim,⁸⁵ J. H. Kim,⁸⁵ J. S. H. Lee,⁸⁵ I. C. Park,⁸⁵ Y. Choi,⁸⁶ C. Hwang,⁸⁶ J. Lee,⁸⁶ I. Yu,⁸⁶ V. Dudenias,⁸⁷ A. Juodagalvis,⁸⁷ J. Vaitkus,⁸⁷ I. Ahmed,⁸⁸ Z. A. Ibrahim,⁸⁸ M. A. B. Md Ali,^{88,ff} F. Mohamad Idris,^{88,gg} W. A. T. Wan Abdullah,⁸⁸ M. N. Yusli,⁸⁸ Z. Zolkapli,⁸⁸ A. Castaneda Hernandez,⁸⁹ J. A. Murillo Quijada,⁸⁹ H. Castilla-Valdez,⁹⁰ E. De La Cruz-Burelo,⁹⁰ M. C. Duran-Osuna,⁹⁰ I. Heredia-De La Cruz,^{90,hh} R. Lopez-Fernandez,⁹⁰ J. Mejia Guisao,⁹⁰ R. I. Rabadan-Trejo,⁹⁰ G. Ramirez-Sanchez,⁹⁰ R. Reyes-Almanza,⁹⁰ A. Sanchez-Hernandez,⁹⁰ S. Carrillo Moreno,⁹¹ C. Oropeza Barrera,⁹¹ F. Vazquez Valencia,⁹¹ J. Eysermans,⁹² I. Pedraza,⁹² H. A. Salazar Ibarguen,⁹² C. Uribe Estrada,⁹² A. Morelos Pineda,⁹³ D. Krofcheck,⁹⁴ S. Bheesette,⁹⁵ P. H. Butler,⁹⁵ A. Ahmad,⁹⁶ M. Ahmad,⁹⁶ M. I. Asghar,⁹⁶ Q. Hassan,⁹⁶ H. R. Hoorani,⁹⁶ A. Saddique,⁹⁶ M. A. Shah,⁹⁶ M. Shoaib,⁹⁶ M. Waqas,⁹⁶ H. Bialkowska,⁹⁷ M. Bluj,⁹⁷ B. Boimska,⁹⁷ T. Frueboes,⁹⁷ M. Górski,⁹⁷ M. Kazana,⁹⁷ K. Nawrocki,⁹⁷ M. Szleper,⁹⁷ P. Traczyk,⁹⁷ P. Zalewski,⁹⁷ K. Bunkowski,⁹⁸ A. Byszuk,^{98,ii} K. Doroba,⁹⁸ A. Kalinowski,⁹⁸ M. Konecki,⁹⁸ J. Krolikowski,⁹⁸ M. Misiura,⁹⁸ M. Olszewski,⁹⁸ A. Pyskir,⁹⁸ M. Walczak,⁹⁸ P. Bargassa,⁹⁹ C. Beirão Da Cruz E Silva,⁹⁹ A. Di Francesco,⁹⁹ P. Faccioli,⁹⁹ B. Galinhas,⁹⁹ M. Gallinaro,⁹⁹ J. Hollar,⁹⁹ N. Leonardo,⁹⁹ L. Lloret Iglesias,⁹⁹ M. V. Nemallapudi,⁹⁹ J. Seixas,⁹⁹ G. Strong,⁹⁹ O. Toldaiev,⁹⁹ D. Vadrucchio,⁹⁹ J. Varela,⁹⁹ A. Baginyan,¹⁰⁰ I. Golutvin,¹⁰⁰ V. Karjavin,¹⁰⁰ I. Kashunin,¹⁰⁰ V. Korenkov,¹⁰⁰ G. Kozlov,¹⁰⁰ A. Lanev,¹⁰⁰ A. Malakhov,¹⁰⁰ V. Matveev,^{100,jj,kk} V. V. Mitsyn,¹⁰⁰ P. Moisezen,¹⁰⁰ V. Palichik,¹⁰⁰ V. Perelygin,¹⁰⁰ S. Shmatov,¹⁰⁰ N. Skatchkov,¹⁰⁰ V. Smirnov,¹⁰⁰ V. Trofimov,¹⁰⁰ A. Zarubin,¹⁰⁰ V. Zhiltsov,¹⁰⁰ V. Golovtsov,¹⁰¹ Y. Ivanov,¹⁰¹ V. Kim,^{101,ll} E. Kuznetsova,^{101,mm} P. Levchenko,¹⁰¹ V. Murzin,¹⁰¹ V. Oreshkin,¹⁰¹ I. Smirnov,¹⁰¹ D. Sosnov,¹⁰¹ V. Sulimov,¹⁰¹ L. Uvarov,¹⁰¹ S. Vavilov,¹⁰¹ A. Vorobyev,¹⁰¹ Yu. Andreev,¹⁰² A. Dermenev,¹⁰² S. Gninenko,¹⁰² N. Golubev,¹⁰² A. Karneyeu,¹⁰² M. Kirsanov,¹⁰² N. Krasnikov,¹⁰² A. Pashenkov,¹⁰² D. Tliso,¹⁰² A. Toropin,¹⁰² V. Epshteyn,¹⁰³ V. Gavrilov,¹⁰³ N. Lychkovskaya,¹⁰³ V. Popov,¹⁰³ I. Pozdnyakov,¹⁰³ G. Safronov,¹⁰³ A. Spiridonov,¹⁰³ A. Stepenov,¹⁰³ V. Stolin,¹⁰³ M. Toms,¹⁰³ E. Vlasov,¹⁰³ A. Zhokin,¹⁰³ T. Aushev,¹⁰⁴ R. Chistov,^{105,nn} M. Danilov,^{105,nn} P. Parygin,¹⁰⁵ D. Philippov,¹⁰⁵ S. Polikarpov,^{105,nn} E. Tarkovskii,¹⁰⁵ V. Andreev,¹⁰⁶ M. Azarkin,^{106,kk} I. Dremin,^{106,kk} M. Kirakosyan,^{106,kk} S. V. Rusakov,¹⁰⁶ A. Terkulov,¹⁰⁶ A. Baskakov,¹⁰⁷ A. Belyaev,¹⁰⁷ E. Boos,¹⁰⁷ M. Dubinin,^{107,oo} L. Dudko,¹⁰⁷ A. Ershov,¹⁰⁷ A. Gribushin,¹⁰⁷ V. Klyukhin,¹⁰⁷ O. Kodolova,¹⁰⁷ I. Lokhtin,¹⁰⁷ I. Miagkov,¹⁰⁷ S. Obraztsov,¹⁰⁷ S. Petrushanko,¹⁰⁷ V. Savrin,¹⁰⁷ A. Snigirev,¹⁰⁷ V. Blinov,^{108,pp} T. Dimova,^{108,pp} L. Kardapoltsev,^{108,pp} D. Shtol,^{108,pp} Y. Skovpen,^{108,pp} I. Azhgirey,¹⁰⁹ I. Bayshev,¹⁰⁹ S. Bitioukov,¹⁰⁹ D. Elumakhov,¹⁰⁹ A. Godizov,¹⁰⁹ V. Kachanov,¹⁰⁹ A. Kalinin,¹⁰⁹ D. Konstantinov,¹⁰⁹ P. Mandrik,¹⁰⁹ V. Petrov,¹⁰⁹ R. Ryutin,¹⁰⁹ S. Slabospitskii,¹⁰⁹ A. Sobol,¹⁰⁹ S. Troshin,¹⁰⁹ N. Tyurin,¹⁰⁹ A. Uzunian,¹⁰⁹ A. Volkov,¹⁰⁹ A. Babaev,¹¹⁰ S. Baidali,¹¹⁰ P. Adzic,^{111,qq} P. Cirkovic,¹¹¹ D. Devetak,¹¹¹ M. Dordevic,¹¹¹ J. Milosevic,¹¹¹ J. Alcaraz Maestre,¹¹² A. Álvarez Fernández,¹¹² I. Bachiller,¹¹² M. Barrio Luna,¹¹² J. A. Brochero Cifuentes,¹¹² M. Cerrada,¹¹² N. Colino,¹¹² B. De La Cruz,¹¹² A. Delgado Peris,¹¹² C. Fernandez Bedoya,¹¹² J. P. Fernández Ramos,¹¹² J. Flix,¹¹² M. C. Fouz,¹¹² O. Gonzalez Lopez,¹¹² S. Goy Lopez,¹¹² J. M. Hernandez,¹¹² M. I. Josa,¹¹² D. Moran,¹¹² A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo,¹¹² J. Puerta Pelayo,¹¹² I. Redondo,¹¹² L. Romero,¹¹² M. S. Soares,¹¹² A. Triossi,¹¹² C. Albajar,¹¹³ J. F. de Trocóniz,¹¹³ J. Cuevas,¹¹⁴ C. Erice,¹¹⁴ J. Fernandez Menendez,¹¹⁴ S. Folgueras,¹¹⁴ I. Gonzalez Caballero,¹¹⁴ J. R. González Fernández,¹¹⁴ E. Palencia Cortezon,¹¹⁴ V. Rodríguez Bouza,¹¹⁴ S. Sanchez Cruz,¹¹⁴ P. Vischia,¹¹⁴ J. M. Vizan Garcia,¹¹⁴ I. J. Cabrillo,¹¹⁵ A. Calderon,¹¹⁵ B. Chazin Quero,¹¹⁵ J. Duarte Campderros,¹¹⁵ M. Fernandez,¹¹⁵ P. J. Fernández Manteca,¹¹⁵ A. García Alonso,¹¹⁵ J. Garcia-Ferrero,¹¹⁵ G. Gomez,¹¹⁵ A. Lopez Virto,¹¹⁵ J. Marco,¹¹⁵ C. Martinez Rivero,¹¹⁵ P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol,¹¹⁵ F. Matorras,¹¹⁵ J. Piedra Gomez,¹¹⁵ C. Prieels,¹¹⁵ T. Rodrigo,¹¹⁵ A. Ruiz-Jimeno,¹¹⁵ L. Scodellaro,¹¹⁵ N. Trevisani,¹¹⁵ I. Vila,¹¹⁵ R. Vilar Cortabitarte,¹¹⁵ D. Abbaneo,¹¹⁶ B. Akgun,¹¹⁶ E. Auffray,¹¹⁶ P. Baillon,¹¹⁶ A. H. Ball,¹¹⁶ D. Barney,¹¹⁶ J. Bendavid,¹¹⁶ M. Bianco,¹¹⁶ A. Bocci,¹¹⁶ C. Botta,¹¹⁶ T. Camporesi,¹¹⁶ M. Cepeda,¹¹⁶ G. Cerminara,¹¹⁶ E. Chapon,¹¹⁶ Y. Chen,¹¹⁶ G. Cucciati,¹¹⁶ D. d'Enterria,¹¹⁶ A. Dabrowski,¹¹⁶ V. Daponte,¹¹⁶ A. David,¹¹⁶ A. De Roeck,¹¹⁶ N. Deelen,¹¹⁶ M. Dobson,¹¹⁶ T. du Pree,¹¹⁶ M. Dünser,¹¹⁶ N. Dupont,¹¹⁶ A. Elliott-Peisert,¹¹⁶

- P. Everaerts,¹¹⁶ F. Fallavollita,^{116,rr} D. Fasanella,¹¹⁶ G. Franzoni,¹¹⁶ J. Fulcher,¹¹⁶ W. Funk,¹¹⁶ D. Gigi,¹¹⁶ A. Gilbert,¹¹⁶ K. Gill,¹¹⁶ F. Glege,¹¹⁶ M. Guilbaud,¹¹⁶ D. Gulhan,¹¹⁶ J. Hegeman,¹¹⁶ V. Innocente,¹¹⁶ A. Jafari,¹¹⁶ P. Janot,¹¹⁶ O. Karacheban,^{116,u} J. Kieseler,¹¹⁶ A. Kornmayer,¹¹⁶ M. Krammer,^{116,b} C. Lange,¹¹⁶ P. Lecoq,¹¹⁶ C. Lourenço,¹¹⁶ L. Malgeri,¹¹⁶ M. Mannelli,¹¹⁶ F. Meijers,¹¹⁶ J. A. Merlin,¹¹⁶ S. Mersi,¹¹⁶ E. Meschi,¹¹⁶ P. Milenovic,^{116,ss} F. Moortgat,¹¹⁶ M. Mulders,¹¹⁶ J. Ngadiuba,¹¹⁶ S. Orfanelli,¹¹⁶ L. Orsini,¹¹⁶ F. Pantaleo,^{116,r} L. Pape,¹¹⁶ E. Perez,¹¹⁶ M. Peruzzi,¹¹⁶ A. Petrilli,¹¹⁶ G. Petrucciani,¹¹⁶ A. Pfeiffer,¹¹⁶ M. Pierini,¹¹⁶ F. M. Pitters,¹¹⁶ D. Rabady,¹¹⁶ A. Racz,¹¹⁶ T. Reis,¹¹⁶ G. Rolandi,^{116,tt} M. Rovere,¹¹⁶ H. Sakulin,¹¹⁶ C. Schäfer,¹¹⁶ C. Schwick,¹¹⁶ M. Seidel,¹¹⁶ M. Selvaggi,¹¹⁶ A. Sharma,¹¹⁶ P. Silva,¹¹⁶ P. Sphicas,^{116,uu} A. Stakia,¹¹⁶ J. Steggemann,¹¹⁶ M. Tosi,¹¹⁶ D. Treille,¹¹⁶ A. Tsirou,¹¹⁶ V. Veckalns,^{116,vv} W. D. Zeuner,¹¹⁶ L. Caminada,^{117,ww} K. Deiters,¹¹⁷ W. Erdmann,¹¹⁷ R. Horisberger,¹¹⁷ Q. Ingram,¹¹⁷ H. C. Kaestli,¹¹⁷ D. Kotlinski,¹¹⁷ U. Langenegger,¹¹⁷ T. Rohe,¹¹⁷ S. A. Wiederkehr,¹¹⁷ M. Backhaus,¹¹⁸ L. Bäni,¹¹⁸ P. Berger,¹¹⁸ N. Chernyavskaya,¹¹⁸ G. Dissertori,¹¹⁸ M. Dittmar,¹¹⁸ M. Donegà,¹¹⁸ C. Dorfer,¹¹⁸ C. Grab,¹¹⁸ C. Heidegger,¹¹⁸ D. Hits,¹¹⁸ J. Hoss,¹¹⁸ T. Klijnsma,¹¹⁸ W. Lustermann,¹¹⁸ R. A. Manzoni,¹¹⁸ M. Marionneau,¹¹⁸ M. T. Meinhard,¹¹⁸ F. Micheli,¹¹⁸ P. Musella,¹¹⁸ F. Nessi-Tedaldi,¹¹⁸ J. Pata,¹¹⁸ F. Pauss,¹¹⁸ G. Perrin,¹¹⁸ L. Perrozzi,¹¹⁸ S. Pigazzini,¹¹⁸ M. Quittnat,¹¹⁸ D. Ruini,¹¹⁸ D. A. Sanz Becerra,¹¹⁸ M. Schönenberger,¹¹⁸ L. Shchutska,¹¹⁸ V. R. Tavolaro,¹¹⁸ K. Theofilatos,¹¹⁸ M. L. Vesterbacka Olsson,¹¹⁸ R. Wallny,¹¹⁸ D. H. Zhu,¹¹⁸ T. K. Aarrestad,¹¹⁹ C. Amsler,^{119,xx} D. Brzhechko,¹¹⁹ M. F. Canelli,¹¹⁹ A. De Cosa,¹¹⁹ R. Del Burgo,¹¹⁹ S. Donato,¹¹⁹ C. Galloni,¹¹⁹ T. Hreus,¹¹⁹ B. Kilminster,¹¹⁹ I. Neutelings,¹¹⁹ D. Pinna,¹¹⁹ G. Rauco,¹¹⁹ P. Robmann,¹¹⁹ D. Salerno,¹¹⁹ K. Schweiger,¹¹⁹ C. Seitz,¹¹⁹ Y. Takahashi,¹¹⁹ A. Zucchetta,¹¹⁹ Y. H. Chang,¹²⁰ K. y. Cheng,¹²⁰ T. H. Doan,¹²⁰ Sh. Jain,¹²⁰ R. Khurana,¹²⁰ C. M. Kuo,¹²⁰ W. Lin,¹²⁰ A. Pozdnyakov,¹²⁰ S. S. Yu,¹²⁰ P. Chang,¹²¹ Y. Chao,¹²¹ K. F. Chen,¹²¹ P. H. Chen,¹²¹ W.-S. Hou,¹²¹ Arun Kumar,¹²¹ Y. y. Li,¹²¹ R.-S. Lu,¹²¹ E. Paganis,¹²¹ A. Psallidas,¹²¹ A. Steen,¹²¹ J. f. Tsai,¹²¹ B. Asavapibhop,¹²² N. Srimanobhas,¹²² N. Suwonjandee,¹²² A. Bat,¹²³ F. Boran,¹²³ S. Cerci,^{123,yy} S. Damarseckin,¹²³ Z. S. Demiroglu,¹²³ F. Dolek,¹²³ C. Dozen,¹²³ I. Dumanoglu,¹²³ S. Girgis,¹²³ G. Gokbulut,¹²³ Y. Guler,¹²³ E. Gurpinar,¹²³ I. Hos,^{123,zz} C. Isik,¹²³ E. E. Kangal,^{123,aaa} O. Kara,¹²³ A. Kayis Topaksu,¹²³ U. Kiminsu,¹²³ M. Oglakci,¹²³ G. Onengut,¹²³ K. Ozdemir,^{123,bbb} S. Ozturk,^{123,ccc} D. Sunar Cerci,^{123,yy} B. Tali,^{123,yy} U. G. Tok,¹²³ S. Turkcapar,¹²³ I. S. Zorbakir,¹²³ C. Zorbilmez,¹²³ B. Isildak,^{124,ddd} G. Karapinar,^{124,eee} M. Yalvac,¹²⁴ M. Zeyrek,¹²⁴ I. O. Atakisi,¹²⁵ E. Gülmez,¹²⁵ M. Kaya,^{125,fff} O. Kaya,^{125,ggg} S. Tekten,¹²⁵ E. A. Yetkin,^{125,hhh} M. N. Agaras,¹²⁶ S. Atay,¹²⁶ A. Cakir,¹²⁶ K. Cankocak,¹²⁶ Y. Komurcu,¹²⁶ S. Sen,^{126,iii} B. Grynyov,¹²⁷ L. Levchuk,¹²⁸ F. Ball,¹²⁹ L. Beck,¹²⁹ J. J. Brooke,¹²⁹ D. Burns,¹²⁹ E. Clement,¹²⁹ D. Cussans,¹²⁹ O. Davignon,¹²⁹ H. Flacher,¹²⁹ J. Goldstein,¹²⁹ G. P. Heath,¹²⁹ H. F. Heath,¹²⁹ L. Kreczko,¹²⁹ D. M. Newbold,^{129,jjj} S. Paramesvaran,¹²⁹ B. Penning,¹²⁹ T. Sakuma,¹²⁹ D. Smith,¹²⁹ V. J. Smith,¹²⁹ J. Taylor,¹²⁹ A. Titterton,¹²⁹ K. W. Bell,¹³⁰ A. Belyaev,^{130,kkk} C. Brew,¹³⁰ R. M. Brown,¹³⁰ D. Cieri,¹³⁰ D. J. A. Cockerill,¹³⁰ J. A. Coughlan,¹³⁰ K. Harder,¹³⁰ S. Harper,¹³⁰ J. Linacre,¹³⁰ E. Olaiya,¹³⁰ D. Petyt,¹³⁰ C. H. Shepherd-Themistocleous,¹³⁰ A. Thea,¹³⁰ I. R. Tomalin,¹³⁰ T. Williams,¹³⁰ W. J. Womersley,¹³⁰ G. Auzinger,¹³¹ R. Bainbridge,¹³¹ P. Bloch,¹³¹ J. Borg,¹³¹ S. Breeze,¹³¹ O. Buchmuller,¹³¹ A. Bundock,¹³¹ S. Casasso,¹³¹ D. Colling,¹³¹ L. Corpe,¹³¹ P. Dauncey,¹³¹ G. Davies,¹³¹ M. Della Negra,¹³¹ R. Di Maria,¹³¹ Y. Haddad,¹³¹ G. Hall,¹³¹ G. Iles,¹³¹ T. James,¹³¹ M. Komm,¹³¹ C. Laner,¹³¹ L. Lyons,¹³¹ A.-M. Magnan,¹³¹ S. Malik,¹³¹ A. Martelli,¹³¹ J. Nash,^{131,lll} A. Nikitenko,^{131,g} V. Palladino,¹³¹ M. Pesaresi,¹³¹ A. Richards,¹³¹ A. Rose,¹³¹ E. Scott,¹³¹ C. Seez,¹³¹ A. Shtipliyski,¹³¹ G. Singh,¹³¹ M. Stoye,¹³¹ T. Streblor,¹³¹ S. Summers,¹³¹ A. Tapper,¹³¹ K. Uchida,¹³¹ T. Virdee,^{131,r} N. Wardle,¹³¹ D. Winterbottom,¹³¹ J. Wright,¹³¹ S. C. Zenz,¹³¹ J. E. Cole,¹³² P. R. Hobson,¹³² A. Khan,¹³² P. Kyberd,¹³² C. K. Mackay,¹³² A. Morton,¹³² I. D. Reid,¹³² L. Teodorescu,¹³² S. Zahid,¹³² K. Call,¹³³ J. Dittmann,¹³³ K. Hatakeyama,¹³³ H. Liu,¹³³ C. Madrid,¹³³ B. McMaster,¹³³ N. Pastika,¹³³ C. Smith,¹³³ R. Bartek,¹³⁴ A. Dominguez,¹³⁴ A. Buccilli,¹³⁵ S. I. Cooper,¹³⁵ C. Henderson,¹³⁵ P. Rumerio,¹³⁵ C. West,¹³⁵ D. Arcaro,¹³⁶ T. Bose,¹³⁶ D. Gastler,¹³⁶ D. Rankin,¹³⁶ C. Richardson,¹³⁶ J. Rohlf,¹³⁶ L. Sulak,¹³⁶ D. Zou,¹³⁶ G. Benelli,¹³⁷ X. Coubez,¹³⁷ D. Cutts,¹³⁷ M. Hadley,¹³⁷ J. Hakala,¹³⁷ U. Heintz,¹³⁷ J. M. Hogan,^{137,mmm} K. H. M. Kwok,¹³⁷ E. Laird,¹³⁷ G. Landsberg,¹³⁷ J. Lee,¹³⁷ Z. Mao,¹³⁷ M. Narain,¹³⁷ J. Pazzini,¹³⁷ S. Piperov,¹³⁷ S. Sagir,^{137,nnn} R. Syarif,¹³⁷ E. Usai,¹³⁷ D. Yu,¹³⁷ R. Band,¹³⁸ C. Brainerd,¹³⁸ R. Breedon,¹³⁸ D. Burns,¹³⁸ M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez,¹³⁸ M. Chertok,¹³⁸ J. Conway,¹³⁸ R. Conway,¹³⁸ P. T. Cox,¹³⁸ R. Erbacher,¹³⁸ C. Flores,¹³⁸ G. Funk,¹³⁸ W. Ko,¹³⁸ O. Kukral,¹³⁸ R. Lander,¹³⁸ C. Mclean,¹³⁸ M. Mulhearn,¹³⁸ D. Pellett,¹³⁸ J. Pilot,¹³⁸ S. Shalhout,¹³⁸ M. Shi,¹³⁸ D. Stolp,¹³⁸ D. Taylor,¹³⁸ K. Tos,¹³⁸ M. Tripathi,¹³⁸ Z. Wang,¹³⁸ F. Zhang,¹³⁸ M. Bachtis,¹³⁹ C. Bravo,¹³⁹ R. Cousins,¹³⁹ A. Dasgupta,¹³⁹ A. Florent,¹³⁹ J. Hauser,¹³⁹ M. Ignatenko,¹³⁹ N. Mccoll,¹³⁹ S. Regnard,¹³⁹ D. Saltzberg,¹³⁹ C. Schnaible,¹³⁹ V. Valuev,¹³⁹ E. Bouvier,¹⁴⁰ K. Burt,¹⁴⁰ R. Clare,¹⁴⁰ J. W. Gary,¹⁴⁰ S. M. A. Ghiasi Shirazi,¹⁴⁰ G. Hanson,¹⁴⁰ G. Karapostoli,¹⁴⁰ E. Kennedy,¹⁴⁰ F. Lacroix,¹⁴⁰ O. R. Long,¹⁴⁰ M. Olmedo Negrete,¹⁴⁰ M. I. Paneva,¹⁴⁰ W. Si,¹⁴⁰

L. Wang,¹⁴⁰ H. Wei,¹⁴⁰ S. Wimpenny,¹⁴⁰ B. R. Yates,¹⁴⁰ J. G. Branson,¹⁴¹ S. Cittolin,¹⁴¹ M. Derdzinski,¹⁴¹ R. Gerosa,¹⁴¹ D. Gilbert,¹⁴¹ B. Hashemi,¹⁴¹ A. Holzner,¹⁴¹ D. Klein,¹⁴¹ G. Kole,¹⁴¹ V. Krutelyov,¹⁴¹ J. Letts,¹⁴¹ M. Masciovecchio,¹⁴¹ D. Olivito,¹⁴¹ S. Padhi,¹⁴¹ M. Pieri,¹⁴¹ M. Sani,¹⁴¹ V. Sharma,¹⁴¹ S. Simon,¹⁴¹ M. Tadel,¹⁴¹ A. Vartak,¹⁴¹ S. Wasserbaech,^{141,ooo} J. Wood,¹⁴¹ F. Würthwein,¹⁴¹ A. Yagil,¹⁴¹ G. Zevi Della Porta,¹⁴¹ N. Amin,¹⁴² R. Bhandari,¹⁴² J. Bradmiller-Feld,¹⁴² C. Campagnari,¹⁴² M. Citron,¹⁴² A. Dishaw,¹⁴² V. Dutta,¹⁴² M. Franco Sevilla,¹⁴² L. Gouskos,¹⁴² R. Heller,¹⁴² J. Incandela,¹⁴² A. Ovcharova,¹⁴² H. Qu,¹⁴² J. Richman,¹⁴² D. Stuart,¹⁴² I. Suarez,¹⁴² S. Wang,¹⁴² J. Yoo,¹⁴² D. Anderson,¹⁴³ A. Bornheim,¹⁴³ J. M. Lawhorn,¹⁴³ H. B. Newman,¹⁴³ T. Q. Nguyen,¹⁴³ M. Spiropulu,¹⁴³ J. R. Vlimant,¹⁴³ R. Wilkinson,¹⁴³ S. Xie,¹⁴³ Z. Zhang,¹⁴³ R. Y. Zhu,¹⁴³ M. B. Andrews,¹⁴⁴ T. Ferguson,¹⁴⁴ T. Mudholkar,¹⁴⁴ M. Paulini,¹⁴⁴ M. Sun,¹⁴⁴ I. Vorobiev,¹⁴⁴ M. Weinberg,¹⁴⁴ J. P. Cumalat,¹⁴⁵ W. T. Ford,¹⁴⁵ F. Jensen,¹⁴⁵ A. Johnson,¹⁴⁵ M. Krohn,¹⁴⁵ S. Leontsinis,¹⁴⁵ E. MacDonald,¹⁴⁵ T. Mulholland,¹⁴⁵ K. Stenson,¹⁴⁵ K. A. Ulmer,¹⁴⁵ S. R. Wagner,¹⁴⁵ J. Alexander,¹⁴⁶ J. Chaves,¹⁴⁶ Y. Cheng,¹⁴⁶ J. Chu,¹⁴⁶ A. Datta,¹⁴⁶ K. McDermott,¹⁴⁶ N. Mirman,¹⁴⁶ J. R. Patterson,¹⁴⁶ D. Quach,¹⁴⁶ A. Rinkevicius,¹⁴⁶ A. Ryd,¹⁴⁶ L. Skinnari,¹⁴⁶ L. Soffi,¹⁴⁶ S. M. Tan,¹⁴⁶ Z. Tao,¹⁴⁶ J. Thom,¹⁴⁶ J. Tucker,¹⁴⁶ P. Wittich,¹⁴⁶ M. Zientek,¹⁴⁶ S. Abdullin,¹⁴⁷ M. Albrow,¹⁴⁷ M. Alyari,¹⁴⁷ G. Apollinari,¹⁴⁷ A. Apresyan,¹⁴⁷ A. Apyan,¹⁴⁷ S. Banerjee,¹⁴⁷ L. A. T. Bauerdick,¹⁴⁷ A. Beretvas,¹⁴⁷ J. Berryhill,¹⁴⁷ P. C. Bhat,¹⁴⁷ G. Bolla,^{147,a} K. Burkett,¹⁴⁷ J. N. Butler,¹⁴⁷ A. Canepa,¹⁴⁷ G. B. Cerati,¹⁴⁷ H. W. K. Cheung,¹⁴⁷ F. Chlebana,¹⁴⁷ M. Cremonesi,¹⁴⁷ J. Duarte,¹⁴⁷ V. D. Elvira,¹⁴⁷ J. Freeman,¹⁴⁷ Z. Gecse,¹⁴⁷ E. Gottschalk,¹⁴⁷ L. Gray,¹⁴⁷ D. Green,¹⁴⁷ S. Grünendahl,¹⁴⁷ O. Gutsche,¹⁴⁷ J. Hanlon,¹⁴⁷ R. M. Harris,¹⁴⁷ S. Hasegawa,¹⁴⁷ J. Hirschauer,¹⁴⁷ Z. Hu,¹⁴⁷ B. Jayatilaka,¹⁴⁷ S. Jindariani,¹⁴⁷ M. Johnson,¹⁴⁷ U. Joshi,¹⁴⁷ B. Klima,¹⁴⁷ M. J. Kortelainen,¹⁴⁷ B. Kreis,¹⁴⁷ S. Lammel,¹⁴⁷ D. Lincoln,¹⁴⁷ R. Lipton,¹⁴⁷ M. Liu,¹⁴⁷ T. Liu,¹⁴⁷ J. Lykken,¹⁴⁷ K. Maeshima,¹⁴⁷ J. M. Marraffino,¹⁴⁷ D. Mason,¹⁴⁷ P. McBride,¹⁴⁷ P. Merkel,¹⁴⁷ S. Mrenna,¹⁴⁷ S. Nahn,¹⁴⁷ V. O'Dell,¹⁴⁷ K. Pedro,¹⁴⁷ C. Pena,¹⁴⁷ O. Prokofyev,¹⁴⁷ G. Rakness,¹⁴⁷ L. Ristori,¹⁴⁷ A. Savoy-Navarro,^{147,ppp} B. Schneider,¹⁴⁷ E. Sexton-Kennedy,¹⁴⁷ A. Soha,¹⁴⁷ W. J. Spalding,¹⁴⁷ L. Spiegel,¹⁴⁷ S. Stoynev,¹⁴⁷ J. Strait,¹⁴⁷ N. Strobbe,¹⁴⁷ L. Taylor,¹⁴⁷ S. Tkaczyk,¹⁴⁷ N. V. Tran,¹⁴⁷ L. Uplegger,¹⁴⁷ E. W. Vaandering,¹⁴⁷ C. Vernieri,¹⁴⁷ M. Verzocchi,¹⁴⁷ R. Vidal,¹⁴⁷ M. Wang,¹⁴⁷ H. A. Weber,¹⁴⁷ A. Whitbeck,¹⁴⁷ D. Acosta,¹⁴⁸ P. Avery,¹⁴⁸ P. Bortignon,¹⁴⁸ D. Bourilkov,¹⁴⁸ A. Brinkerhoff,¹⁴⁸ L. Cadamuro,¹⁴⁸ A. Carnes,¹⁴⁸ M. Carver,¹⁴⁸ D. Curry,¹⁴⁸ R. D. Field,¹⁴⁸ S. V. Gleyzer,¹⁴⁸ B. M. Joshi,¹⁴⁸ J. Konigsberg,¹⁴⁸ A. Korytov,¹⁴⁸ P. Ma,¹⁴⁸ K. Matchev,¹⁴⁸ H. Mei,¹⁴⁸ G. Mitselmakher,¹⁴⁸ K. Shi,¹⁴⁸ D. Sperka,¹⁴⁸ J. Wang,¹⁴⁸ S. Wang,¹⁴⁸ Y. R. Joshi,¹⁴⁹ S. Linn,¹⁴⁹ A. Ackert,¹⁵⁰ T. Adams,¹⁵⁰ A. Askew,¹⁵⁰ S. Hagopian,¹⁵⁰ V. Hagopian,¹⁵⁰ K. F. Johnson,¹⁵⁰ T. Kolberg,¹⁵⁰ G. Martinez,¹⁵⁰ T. Perry,¹⁵⁰ H. Prosper,¹⁵⁰ A. Saha,¹⁵⁰ A. Santra,¹⁵⁰ V. Sharma,¹⁵⁰ R. Yohay,¹⁵⁰ M. M. Baarmand,¹⁵¹ V. Bhopatkar,¹⁵¹ S. Colafranceschi,¹⁵¹ M. Hohmann,¹⁵¹ D. Noonan,¹⁵¹ M. Rahmani,¹⁵¹ T. Roy,¹⁵¹ F. Yumiceva,¹⁵¹ M. R. Adams,¹⁵² L. Apanasevich,¹⁵² D. Berry,¹⁵² R. R. Betts,¹⁵² R. Cavanaugh,¹⁵² X. Chen,¹⁵² S. Dittmer,¹⁵² O. Evdokimov,¹⁵² C. E. Gerber,¹⁵² D. A. Hangal,¹⁵² D. J. Hofman,¹⁵² K. Jung,¹⁵² J. Kamin,¹⁵² C. Mills,¹⁵² I. D. Sandoval Gonzalez,¹⁵² M. B. Tonjes,¹⁵² N. Varelas,¹⁵² H. Wang,¹⁵² X. Wang,¹⁵² Z. Wu,¹⁵² J. Zhang,¹⁵² M. Alhusseini,¹⁵³ B. Bilki,^{153,qqq} W. Clarida,¹⁵³ K. Dilsiz,^{153,rrr} S. Durgut,¹⁵³ R. P. Gandrajula,¹⁵³ M. Haytmyradov,¹⁵³ V. Khristenko,¹⁵³ J.-P. Merlo,¹⁵³ A. Mestvirishvili,¹⁵³ A. Moeller,¹⁵³ J. Nachtman,¹⁵³ H. Ogul,^{153,sss} Y. Onel,¹⁵³ F. Ozok,^{153,ttt} A. Penzo,¹⁵³ C. Snyder,¹⁵³ E. Tiras,¹⁵³ J. Wetzel,¹⁵³ B. Blumenfeld,¹⁵⁴ A. Cocoros,¹⁵⁴ N. Eminizer,¹⁵⁴ D. Fehling,¹⁵⁴ L. Feng,¹⁵⁴ A. V. Gritsan,¹⁵⁴ W. T. Hung,¹⁵⁴ P. Maksimovic,¹⁵⁴ J. Roskes,¹⁵⁴ U. Sarica,¹⁵⁴ M. Swartz,¹⁵⁴ M. Xiao,¹⁵⁴ C. You,¹⁵⁴ A. Al-bataineh,¹⁵⁵ P. Baringer,¹⁵⁵ A. Bean,¹⁵⁵ S. Boren,¹⁵⁵ J. Bowen,¹⁵⁵ A. Bylinkin,¹⁵⁵ J. Castle,¹⁵⁵ S. Khalil,¹⁵⁵ A. Kropivnitskaya,¹⁵⁵ D. Majumder,¹⁵⁵ W. Mcbrayer,¹⁵⁵ M. Murray,¹⁵⁵ C. Rogan,¹⁵⁵ S. Sanders,¹⁵⁵ E. Schmitz,¹⁵⁵ J. D. Tapia Takaki,¹⁵⁵ Q. Wang,¹⁵⁵ A. Ivanov,¹⁵⁶ K. Kaadze,¹⁵⁶ D. Kim,¹⁵⁶ Y. Maravin,¹⁵⁶ D. R. Mendis,¹⁵⁶ T. Mitchell,¹⁵⁶ A. Modak,¹⁵⁶ A. Mohammadi,¹⁵⁶ L. K. Saini,¹⁵⁶ N. Skhirtladze,¹⁵⁶ F. Rebassoo,¹⁵⁷ D. Wright,¹⁵⁷ A. Baden,¹⁵⁸ O. Baron,¹⁵⁸ A. Belloni,¹⁵⁸ S. C. Eno,¹⁵⁸ Y. Feng,¹⁵⁸ C. Ferraioli,¹⁵⁸ N. J. Hadley,¹⁵⁸ S. Jabeen,¹⁵⁸ G. Y. Jeng,¹⁵⁸ R. G. Kellogg,¹⁵⁸ J. Kunkle,¹⁵⁸ A. C. Mignerey,¹⁵⁸ F. Ricci-Tam,¹⁵⁸ Y. H. Shin,¹⁵⁸ A. Skuja,¹⁵⁸ S. C. Tonwar,¹⁵⁸ K. Wong,¹⁵⁸ D. Abercrombie,¹⁵⁹ B. Allen,¹⁵⁹ V. Azzolini,¹⁵⁹ A. Baty,¹⁵⁹ G. Bauer,¹⁵⁹ R. Bi,¹⁵⁹ S. Brandt,¹⁵⁹ W. Busza,¹⁵⁹ I. A. Cali,¹⁵⁹ M. D'Alfonso,¹⁵⁹ Z. Demiragli,¹⁵⁹ G. Gomez Ceballos,¹⁵⁹ M. Goncharov,¹⁵⁹ P. Harris,¹⁵⁹ D. Hsu,¹⁵⁹ M. Hu,¹⁵⁹ Y. Iiyama,¹⁵⁹ G. M. Innocenti,¹⁵⁹ M. Klute,¹⁵⁹ D. Kovalskyi,¹⁵⁹ Y.-J. Lee,¹⁵⁹ P. D. Luckey,¹⁵⁹ B. Maier,¹⁵⁹ A. C. Marini,¹⁵⁹ C. McGinn,¹⁵⁹ C. Mironov,¹⁵⁹ S. Narayanan,¹⁵⁹ X. Niu,¹⁵⁹ C. Paus,¹⁵⁹ C. Roland,¹⁵⁹ G. Roland,¹⁵⁹ G. S. F. Stephens,¹⁵⁹ K. Sumorok,¹⁵⁹ K. Tatar,¹⁵⁹ D. Velicanu,¹⁵⁹ J. Wang,¹⁵⁹ T. W. Wang,¹⁵⁹ B. Wyslouch,¹⁵⁹ S. Zhaozhong,¹⁵⁹ A. C. Benvenuti,¹⁶⁰ R. M. Chatterjee,¹⁶⁰ A. Evans,¹⁶⁰ P. Hansen,¹⁶⁰ S. Kalafut,¹⁶⁰ Y. Kubota,¹⁶⁰ Z. Lesko,¹⁶⁰ J. Mans,¹⁶⁰ S. Nourbakhsh,¹⁶⁰ N. Ruckstuhl,¹⁶⁰ R. Rusack,¹⁶⁰ J. Turkewitz,¹⁶⁰ M. A. Wadud,¹⁶⁰ J. G. Acosta,¹⁶¹ S. Oliveros,¹⁶¹ E. Avdeeva,¹⁶² K. Bloom,¹⁶² D. R. Claes,¹⁶² C. Fangmeier,¹⁶² F. Golf,¹⁶² R. Gonzalez Suarez,¹⁶² R. Kamalieddin,¹⁶² I. Kravchenko,¹⁶² J. Monroy,¹⁶²

J. E. Siado,¹⁶² G. R. Snow,¹⁶² B. Stieger,¹⁶² A. Godshalk,¹⁶³ C. Harrington,¹⁶³ I. Iashvili,¹⁶³ A. Kharchilava,¹⁶³
D. Nguyen,¹⁶³ A. Parker,¹⁶³ S. Rappoccio,¹⁶³ B. Roozbahani,¹⁶³ G. Alverson,¹⁶⁴ E. Barberis,¹⁶⁴ C. Freer,¹⁶⁴
A. Hortiangtham,¹⁶⁴ D. M. Morse,¹⁶⁴ T. Orimoto,¹⁶⁴ R. Teixeira De Lima,¹⁶⁴ T. Wamorkar,¹⁶⁴ B. Wang,¹⁶⁴ A. Wisecarver,¹⁶⁴
D. Wood,¹⁶⁴ S. Bhattacharya,¹⁶⁵ O. Charaf,¹⁶⁵ K. A. Hahn,¹⁶⁵ N. Mucia,¹⁶⁵ N. Odell,¹⁶⁵ M. H. Schmitt,¹⁶⁵ K. Sung,¹⁶⁵
M. Trovato,¹⁶⁵ M. Velasco,¹⁶⁵ R. Bucci,¹⁶⁶ N. Dev,¹⁶⁶ M. Hildreth,¹⁶⁶ K. Hurtado Anampa,¹⁶⁶ C. Jessop,¹⁶⁶
D. J. Karmgard,¹⁶⁶ N. Kellams,¹⁶⁶ K. Lannon,¹⁶⁶ W. Li,¹⁶⁶ N. Loukas,¹⁶⁶ N. Marinelli,¹⁶⁶ F. Meng,¹⁶⁶ C. Mueller,¹⁶⁶
Y. Musienko,^{166,jj} M. Planer,¹⁶⁶ A. Reinsvold,¹⁶⁶ R. Ruchti,¹⁶⁶ P. Siddireddy,¹⁶⁶ G. Smith,¹⁶⁶ S. Taroni,¹⁶⁶ M. Wayne,¹⁶⁶
A. Wightman,¹⁶⁶ M. Wolf,¹⁶⁶ A. Woodard,¹⁶⁶ J. Alimena,¹⁶⁷ L. Antonelli,¹⁶⁷ B. Bylsma,¹⁶⁷ L. S. Durkin,¹⁶⁷ S. Flowers,¹⁶⁷
B. Francis,¹⁶⁷ A. Hart,¹⁶⁷ C. Hill,¹⁶⁷ W. Ji,¹⁶⁷ T. Y. Ling,¹⁶⁷ W. Luo,¹⁶⁷ B. L. Winer,¹⁶⁷ H. W. Wulsin,¹⁶⁷ S. Cooperstein,¹⁶⁸
P. Elmer,¹⁶⁸ J. Hardenbrook,¹⁶⁸ P. Hebda,¹⁶⁸ S. Higginbotham,¹⁶⁸ A. Kalogeropoulos,¹⁶⁸ D. Lange,¹⁶⁸ M. T. Lucchini,¹⁶⁸
J. Luo,¹⁶⁸ D. Marlow,¹⁶⁸ K. Mei,¹⁶⁸ I. Ojalvo,¹⁶⁸ J. Olsen,¹⁶⁸ C. Palmer,¹⁶⁸ P. Piroué,¹⁶⁸ J. Salfeld-Nebgen,¹⁶⁸ D. Stickland,¹⁶⁸
C. Tully,¹⁶⁸ S. Malik,¹⁶⁹ S. Norberg,¹⁶⁹ A. Barker,¹⁷⁰ V. E. Barnes,¹⁷⁰ S. Das,¹⁷⁰ L. Gutay,¹⁷⁰ M. Jones,¹⁷⁰ A. W. Jung,¹⁷⁰
A. Khatiwada,¹⁷⁰ B. Mahakud,¹⁷⁰ D. H. Miller,¹⁷⁰ N. Neumeister,¹⁷⁰ C. C. Peng,¹⁷⁰ H. Qiu,¹⁷⁰ J. F. Schulte,¹⁷⁰ J. Sun,¹⁷⁰
F. Wang,¹⁷⁰ R. Xiao,¹⁷⁰ W. Xie,¹⁷⁰ T. Cheng,¹⁷¹ J. Dolen,¹⁷¹ N. Parashar,¹⁷¹ Z. Chen,¹⁷² K. M. Ecklund,¹⁷² S. Freed,¹⁷²
F. J. M. Geurts,¹⁷² M. Kilpatrick,¹⁷² W. Li,¹⁷² B. Michlin,¹⁷² B. P. Padley,¹⁷² J. Roberts,¹⁷² J. Rorie,¹⁷² W. Shi,¹⁷² Z. Tu,¹⁷²
J. Zabel,¹⁷² A. Zhang,¹⁷² A. Bodek,¹⁷³ P. de Barbaro,¹⁷³ R. Demina,¹⁷³ Y. t. Duh,¹⁷³ J. L. Dulemba,¹⁷³ C. Fallon,¹⁷³
T. Ferbel,¹⁷³ M. Galanti,¹⁷³ A. Garcia-Bellido,¹⁷³ J. Han,¹⁷³ O. Hindrichs,¹⁷³ A. Khukhunaishvili,¹⁷³ K. H. Lo,¹⁷³ P. Tan,¹⁷³
R. Taus,¹⁷³ M. Verzetti,¹⁷³ A. Agapitos,¹⁷⁴ J. P. Chou,¹⁷⁴ Y. Gershtein,¹⁷⁴ T. A. Gómez Espinosa,¹⁷⁴ E. Halkiadakis,¹⁷⁴
M. Heindl,¹⁷⁴ E. Hughes,¹⁷⁴ S. Kaplan,¹⁷⁴ R. Kunnawalkam Elayavalli,¹⁷⁴ S. Kyriacou,¹⁷⁴ A. Lath,¹⁷⁴ R. Montalvo,¹⁷⁴
K. Nash,¹⁷⁴ M. Osherson,¹⁷⁴ H. Saka,¹⁷⁴ S. Salur,¹⁷⁴ S. Schnetzer,¹⁷⁴ D. Sheffield,¹⁷⁴ S. Somalwar,¹⁷⁴ R. Stone,¹⁷⁴
S. Thomas,¹⁷⁴ P. Thomassen,¹⁷⁴ M. Walker,¹⁷⁴ A. G. Delannoy,¹⁷⁵ J. Heideman,¹⁷⁵ G. Riley,¹⁷⁵ K. Rose,¹⁷⁵ S. Spanier,¹⁷⁵
K. Thapa,¹⁷⁵ O. Bouhali,^{176,uuu} A. Celik,¹⁷⁶ M. Dalchenko,¹⁷⁶ M. De Mattia,¹⁷⁶ A. Delgado,¹⁷⁶ S. Dildick,¹⁷⁶ R. Eusebi,¹⁷⁶
J. Gilmore,¹⁷⁶ T. Huang,¹⁷⁶ T. Kamon,^{176,vvv} S. Luo,¹⁷⁶ R. Mueller,¹⁷⁶ Y. Pakhotin,¹⁷⁶ R. Patel,¹⁷⁶ A. Perloff,¹⁷⁶ L. Perniè,¹⁷⁶
D. Rathjens,¹⁷⁶ A. Safonov,¹⁷⁶ A. Tatarinov,¹⁷⁶ N. Akchurin,¹⁷⁷ J. Damgov,¹⁷⁷ F. De Guio,¹⁷⁷ P. R. Duderø,¹⁷⁷ S. Kunori,¹⁷⁷
K. Lamichhane,¹⁷⁷ S. W. Lee,¹⁷⁷ T. Mengke,¹⁷⁷ S. Muthumuni,¹⁷⁷ T. Peltola,¹⁷⁷ S. Undleeb,¹⁷⁷ I. Volobouev,¹⁷⁷ Z. Wang,¹⁷⁷
S. Greene,¹⁷⁸ A. Gurrola,¹⁷⁸ R. Janjam,¹⁷⁸ W. Johns,¹⁷⁸ C. Maguire,¹⁷⁸ A. Melo,¹⁷⁸ H. Ni,¹⁷⁸ K. Padeken,¹⁷⁸
J. D. Ruiz Alvarez,¹⁷⁸ P. Sheldon,¹⁷⁸ S. Tuo,¹⁷⁸ J. Velkovska,¹⁷⁸ M. Verweij,¹⁷⁸ Q. Xu,¹⁷⁸ M. W. Arenton,¹⁷⁹ P. Barria,¹⁷⁹
B. Cox,¹⁷⁹ R. Hirosky,¹⁷⁹ M. Joyce,¹⁷⁹ A. Ledovskoy,¹⁷⁹ H. Li,¹⁷⁹ C. Neu,¹⁷⁹ T. Sinthuprasith,¹⁷⁹ Y. Wang,¹⁷⁹ E. Wolfe,¹⁷⁹
F. Xia,¹⁷⁹ R. Harr,¹⁸⁰ P. E. Karchin,¹⁸⁰ N. Poudyal,¹⁸⁰ J. Sturdy,¹⁸⁰ P. Thapa,¹⁸⁰ S. Zaleski,¹⁸⁰ M. Brodski,¹⁸¹ J. Buchanan,¹⁸¹
C. Caillol,¹⁸¹ D. Carlsmith,¹⁸¹ S. Dasu,¹⁸¹ L. Dodd,¹⁸¹ S. Duric,¹⁸¹ B. Gomber,¹⁸¹ M. Grothe,¹⁸¹ M. Herndon,¹⁸¹ A. Hervé,¹⁸¹
U. Hussain,¹⁸¹ P. Klabbbers,¹⁸¹ A. Lanaro,¹⁸¹ A. Levine,¹⁸¹ K. Long,¹⁸¹ R. Loveless,¹⁸¹ T. Ruggles,¹⁸¹ A. Savin,¹⁸¹
N. Smith,¹⁸¹ W. H. Smith,¹⁸¹ and N. Woods¹⁸¹

(CMS Collaboration)

¹*Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia*²*Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Wien, Austria*³*Institute for Nuclear Problems, Minsk, Belarus*⁴*Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium*⁵*Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium*⁶*Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium*⁷*Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium*⁸*Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*⁹*Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*¹⁰*Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*^{11a}*Universidade Estadual Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil*^{11b}*Universidade Federal do ABC, São Paulo, Brazil*¹²*Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria*¹³*University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria*¹⁴*Beihang University, Beijing, China*¹⁵*Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China*¹⁶*State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China*

- ¹⁷*Tsinghua University, Beijing, China*
- ¹⁸*Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia*
- ¹⁹*University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split, Croatia*
- ²⁰*University of Split, Faculty of Science, Split, Croatia*
- ²¹*Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia*
- ²²*University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus*
- ²³*Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic*
- ²⁴*Escuela Politecnica Nacional, Quito, Ecuador*
- ²⁵*Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador*
- ²⁶*Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt*
- ²⁷*National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia*
- ²⁸*Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland*
- ²⁹*Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland*
- ³⁰*Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland*
- ³¹*IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France*
- ³²*Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole polytechnique, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Palaiseau, France*
- ³³*Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, Strasbourg, France*
- ³⁴*Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France*
- ³⁵*Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS-IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France*
- ³⁶*Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia*
- ³⁷*Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia*
- ³⁸*RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany*
- ³⁹*RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany*
- ⁴⁰*RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut B, Aachen, Germany*
- ⁴¹*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany*
- ⁴²*University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany*
- ⁴³*Karlsruher Institut fuer Technology*
- ⁴⁴*Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INPP), NCSR Demokritos, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece*
- ⁴⁵*National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece*
- ⁴⁶*National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece*
- ⁴⁷*University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece*
- ⁴⁸*MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary*
- ⁴⁹*Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary*
- ⁵⁰*Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary*
- ⁵¹*Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary*
- ⁵²*Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India*
- ⁵³*National Institute of Science Education and Research, HBNI, Bhubaneswar, India*
- ⁵⁴*Panjab University, Chandigarh, India*
- ⁵⁵*University of Delhi, Delhi, India*
- ⁵⁶*Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, HBNI, Kolkata, India*
- ⁵⁷*Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India*
- ⁵⁸*Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India*
- ⁵⁹*Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India*
- ⁶⁰*Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India*
- ⁶¹*Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India*
- ⁶²*Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran*
- ⁶³*University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland*
- ^{64a}*INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy*
- ^{64b}*Università di Bari, Bari, Italy*
- ^{64c}*Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy*
- ^{65a}*INFN Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy*
- ^{65b}*Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy*
- ^{66a}*INFN Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy*
- ^{66b}*Università di Catania, Catania, Italy*

- ^{67a}*INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy*
^{67b}*Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy*
⁶⁸*INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy*
^{69a}*INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy*
^{69b}*Università di Genova, Genova, Italy*
^{70a}*INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy*
^{70b}*Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy*
^{71a}*INFN Sezione di Napoli, Napoli, Italy*
^{71b}*Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Napoli, Italy*
^{71c}*Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy*
^{71d}*Università G. Marconi, Roma, Italy*
^{72a}*INFN Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy*
^{72b}*Università di Padova, Padova, Italy*
^{73a}*INFN Sezione di Pavia*
^{73b}*Università di Pavia*
^{74a}*INFN Sezione di Perugia, Perugia, Italy*
^{74b}*Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy*
^{75a}*INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*
^{75b}*Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*
^{75c}*Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*
^{76a}*INFN Sezione di Roma, Rome, Italy*
^{76b}*Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy*
^{77a}*INFN Sezione di Torino, Torino, Italy*
^{77b}*Università di Torino, Torino, Italy*
^{77c}*Università del Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy*
^{78a}*INFN Sezione di Trieste, Trieste, Italy*
^{78b}*Università di Trieste, Trieste, Italy*
⁷⁹*Kyungpook National University*
⁸⁰*Chonnam National University, Institute for Universe and Elementary Particles, Kwangju, Korea*
⁸¹*Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea*
⁸²*Korea University, Seoul, Korea*
⁸³*Sejong University, Seoul, Korea*
⁸⁴*Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea*
⁸⁵*University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea*
⁸⁶*Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea*
⁸⁷*Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania*
⁸⁸*National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*
⁸⁹*Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), Hermosillo, Mexico*
⁹⁰*Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico*
⁹¹*Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico*
⁹²*Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico*
⁹³*Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico*
⁹⁴*University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand*
⁹⁵*University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand*
⁹⁶*National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan*
⁹⁷*National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland*
⁹⁸*Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland*
⁹⁹*Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal*
¹⁰⁰*Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia*
¹⁰¹*Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia*
¹⁰²*Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia*
¹⁰³*Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia*
¹⁰⁴*Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow, Russia*
¹⁰⁵*National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia*
¹⁰⁶*P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia*
¹⁰⁷*Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia*
¹⁰⁸*Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia*
¹⁰⁹*State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics of NRC "Kurchatov Institute", Protvino, Russia*

- ¹¹⁰National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia
- ¹¹¹University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
- ¹¹²Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain
- ¹¹³Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
- ¹¹⁴Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain
- ¹¹⁵Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain
- ¹¹⁶CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
- ¹¹⁷Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland
- ¹¹⁸ETH Zurich—Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics (IPA), Zurich, Switzerland
- ¹¹⁹Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
- ¹²⁰National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan
- ¹²¹National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan
- ¹²²Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Bangkok, Thailand
- ¹²³Çukurova University, Physics Department, Science and Art Faculty, Adana, Turkey
- ¹²⁴Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey
- ¹²⁵Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
- ¹²⁶Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
- ¹²⁷Institute for Scintillation Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kharkov, Ukraine
- ¹²⁸National Scientific Center, Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkov, Ukraine
- ¹²⁹University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom
- ¹³⁰Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
- ¹³¹Imperial College, London, United Kingdom
- ¹³²Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom
- ¹³³Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USA
- ¹³⁴Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA
- ¹³⁵The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA
- ¹³⁶Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- ¹³⁷Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA
- ¹³⁸University of California, Davis, Davis, California, USA
- ¹³⁹University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA
- ¹⁴⁰University of California, Riverside, Riverside, California, USA
- ¹⁴¹University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA
- ¹⁴²University of California, Santa Barbara—Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, California, USA
- ¹⁴³California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA
- ¹⁴⁴Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
- ¹⁴⁵University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, USA
- ¹⁴⁶Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA
- ¹⁴⁷Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois, USA
- ¹⁴⁸University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA
- ¹⁴⁹Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA
- ¹⁵⁰Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA
- ¹⁵¹Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida, USA
- ¹⁵²University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, Illinois, USA
- ¹⁵³The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA
- ¹⁵⁴Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- ¹⁵⁵The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, USA
- ¹⁵⁶Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA
- ¹⁵⁷Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California, USA
- ¹⁵⁸University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA
- ¹⁵⁹Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
- ¹⁶⁰University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
- ¹⁶¹University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, USA
- ¹⁶²University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA
- ¹⁶³State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, USA
- ¹⁶⁴Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- ¹⁶⁵Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA
- ¹⁶⁶University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
- ¹⁶⁷The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA
- ¹⁶⁸Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, USA
- ¹⁶⁹University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

- ¹⁷⁰*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA*
¹⁷¹*Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, Indiana, USA*
¹⁷²*Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA*
¹⁷³*University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA*
¹⁷⁴*Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA*
¹⁷⁵*University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA*
¹⁷⁶*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA*
¹⁷⁷*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA*
¹⁷⁸*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA*
¹⁷⁹*University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA*
¹⁸⁰*Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, USA*
¹⁸¹*University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA*

^aDeceased.

^bAlso at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.

^cAlso at IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

^dAlso at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil.

^eAlso at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

^fAlso at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium.

^gAlso at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia.

^hAlso at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia.

ⁱAlso at Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.

^jAlso at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt.

^kAlso at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt.

^lAlso at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt.

^mAlso at Department of Physics, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

ⁿAlso at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France.

^oAlso at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

^pAlso at Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

^qAlso at Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

^rAlso at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland.

^sAlso at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany.

^tAlso at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

^uAlso at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany.

^vAlso at MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

^wAlso at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary.

^xAlso at Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary.

^yAlso at IIT Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India.

^zAlso at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India.

^{aa}Also at Shoolini University, Solan, India.

^{bb}Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India.

^{cc}Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran.

^{dd}Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

^{ee}Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.

^{ff}Also at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

^{gg}Also at Malaysian Nuclear Agency, MOSTI, Kajang, Malaysia.

^{hh}Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico city, Mexico.

ⁱⁱAlso at Warsaw University of Technology, Institute of Electronic Systems, Warsaw, Poland.

^{jj}Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia.

^{kk}Also at National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia.

^{ll}Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

^{mm}Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.

ⁿⁿAlso at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia.

^{oo}Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA.

^{pp}Also at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk, Russia.

^{qq}Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

^{rr}Also at INFN Sezione di Pavia, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy.

^{ss}Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia.

^{tt}Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy.

^{uu}Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

- ^{vv} Also at Riga Technical University.
- ^{ww} Also at Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland.
- ^{xx} Also at Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics.
- ^{yy} Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey.
- ^{zz} Also at Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ^{aaa} Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey.
- ^{bbb} Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ^{ccc} Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey.
- ^{ddd} Also at Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ^{eee} Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey.
- ^{fff} Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ^{ggg} Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey.
- ^{hhh} Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Also at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.
- ^{jjj} Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.
- ^{kkk} Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom.
- ^{lll} Also at Monash University, Faculty of Science, Clayton, Australia.
- ^{mmm} Also at Bethel University.
- ⁿⁿⁿ Also at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Karaman, Turkey.
- ^{ooo} Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, USA.
- ^{ppp} Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.
- ^{qqq} Also at Beykent University.
- ^{rrr} Also at Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey.
- ^{sss} Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey.
- ^{ttt} Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ^{uuu} Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar.
- ^{vvv} Also at Kyungpook National University.